

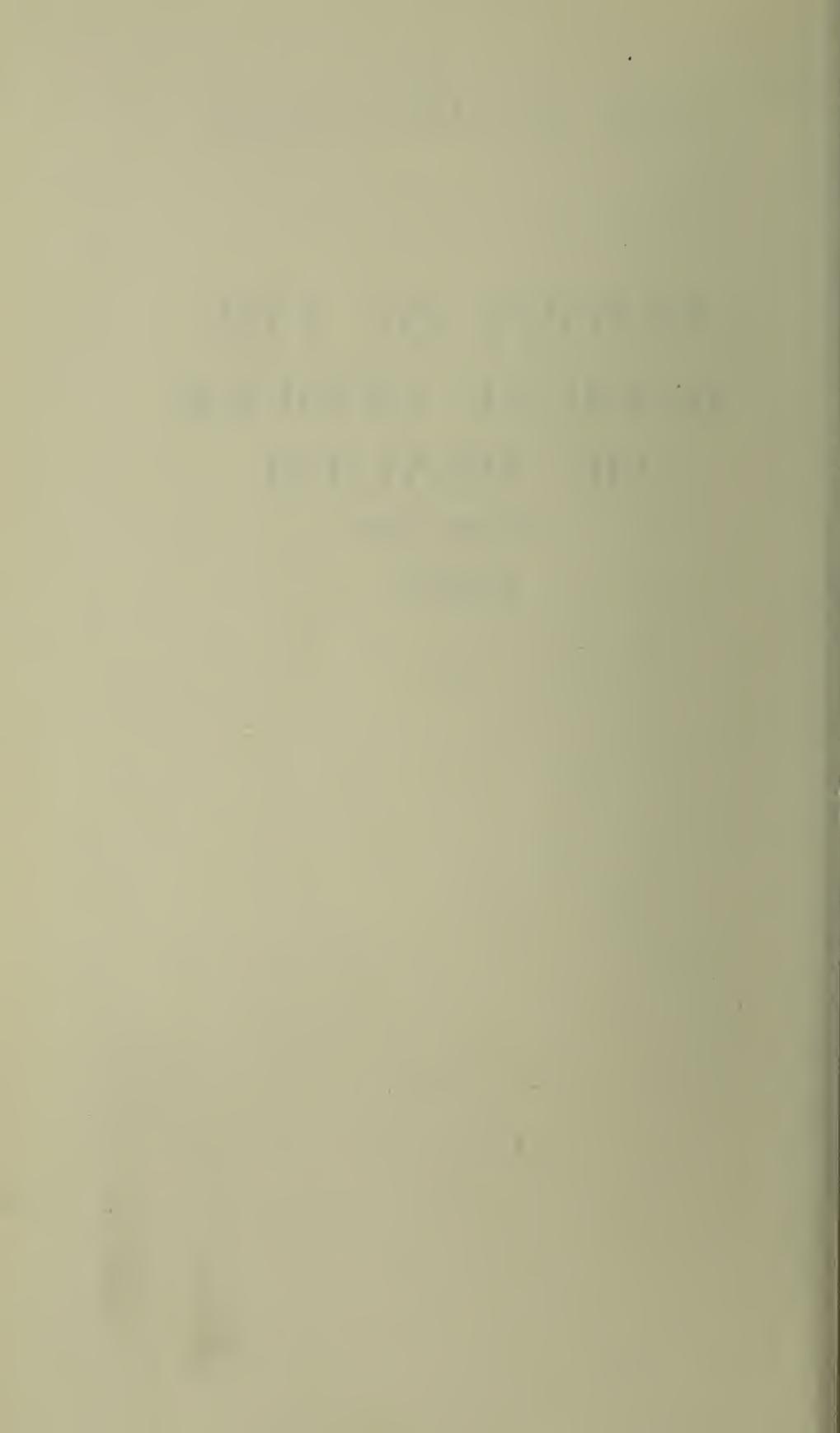
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1948





PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
THE COUNCIL HOUSE,
BIRMINGHAM, 3.

12th August, 1949.

To the Chairman and Members,
Health Committee.

Since the period covered by the Annual Report for 1947, the vast administrative changes resulting from the National Health Service Act, 1946, have been brought into effect. Since July 5th, 1948, the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board have taken over from the Corporation their hospitals, infirmaries, mental and mental deficiency institutions, sanatoria and maternity homes, and their tuberculosis, mass radiography and venereal disease clinics.

The majority of these services had been the responsibility of your Committee ; and in their place, as from the date on which you lost these, other duties were placed on you in relation to the National Health Service. The district nursing services of the City of Birmingham District Nursing Association and certain other smaller Associations were taken over and developed into a unified and comprehensive service for the City. The ambulance service created by the Birmingham Hospitals Contributory Association, in conjunction with the St. John Ambulance Brigade, was taken over, under the management of the Fire Brigade Committee acting on your behalf. Here again the service has been made a more fully developed and comprehensive one. The service of domestic helps, in the provision of which Birmingham had for years been a pioneer, was enlarged, and continues to be extended to the extent that the counter-attractions of industrial employment permit. The domiciliary care and after-care problems of the mentally disordered and the mentally defective have now fallen within the province of your Committee.

Again, the provision of convalescent care is now divided between the Regional Hospital Board, dealing with convalescence involving medical treatment, and the local Health Authority, to whom falls the duty of making provision for recuperative convalescence. The manner in which this service is being developed is outlined in the Report, where also more detailed particulars of these several new services will be found.

A further new service, that of the provision of Health Centres, is still in its initial stages of development, here in consultation with the Birmingham Executive Council in view of their relation to general practitioner services.

Meanwhile, the hard core of the environmental health work has continued, unaffected by the turmoil of these changes in the personal health services. The pages which follow indicate the activities of the year in relation to such matters as general sanitation, housing, control of infectious disease, food hygiene, etc.

Despite the stress of these major administrative adjustments, the records of the year have proved satisfactory in a number of directions. The City attained the lowest death-rate, the lowest infant mortality rate, and the lowest maternal mortality rate so far reached. The records of the venereal disease clinics—now under the aegis of the Regional Hospital Board—showed a falling incidence of these diseases. The work of repair of dilapidated dwellings and the remedy of nuisances made very substantial progress. In relation to the marked progress made by the Central Areas Management Committee and Department in the vesting in the Corporation of the immense central areas of slums, with a view to their redevelopment, the housing staff of the Public Health Department have played their important part in the determination of the repair work needed, pending the redevelopment of these areas and the rehousing of those who live in them. The maternity and child welfare services of the City have continued to function with the vigour and effectiveness which the City has come to expect of them.

In all these directions I am happy to testify to the admirable spirit in which the staff have one and all applied themselves to their duties. Your Committee may well feel proud of the staff who serve you, and I should wish to express my grateful thanks to them, and to your Committee, for the friendly and co-operative spirit which throughout the whole year has made the work of the Department both pleasant and fruitful.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. P. NEWSHOLME,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

For the Year 1948

Area (in acres) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	51,147
Population (Census, 1931) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,002,603
Population, estimated by Registrar-General (Civilians only) as at 30th June, 1948 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,096,100

The Registrar-General's estimated mid-year civilian population has been used for all relevant purposes throughout this report, and in addition where rates are based on less than twenty instances, these rates are printed in italics.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year 1948 :

Birth-rate per 1,000 population	19·5	(21,346 live births)
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	21·8	(476 stillbirths)
Crude Death-rate per 1,000 population	9·8	(10,710 deaths)

Maternal Mortality :—

	<i>Excluding maternal deaths after abortion</i>	<i>Including maternal deaths after abortion</i>
From Sepsis : (2 deaths)		
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	0·09	
From other puerperal causes : (9 deaths)		There were no maternal deaths following abor- tion
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	0·41	
Total Maternal Mortality	0·50	
	=	

Infant Mortality :—

Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births :

Legitimate .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	31
Illegitimate .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	44
Legitimate and illegitimate .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32

POPULATION AND MORTALITY STATISTICS

Population

The Registrar-General estimates the civilian population at 1,096,100 on June 30th, 1948.

Births (see page 17)

Deaths

The number of deaths during 1948 was 10,710, giving a death-rate of 9·8, which is the lowest rate so far recorded in the City. The average rate for the ten years prior to 1948 was 11·8 while that for 1947 was 12·0. The death rates for 1940 and 1941 were swollen by air raid deaths.

The changes in the death-rate in England and Wales and in Birmingham during the past forty-eight years can be seen from the figures below, although the figures for 1940 and 1941, enlarged as they are by air-raid deaths, obviously cannot fairly be compared with others.

DEATH-RATES IN BIRMINGHAM AND ENGLAND AND WALES

	Birmingham	England and Wales
1901-1905	16·5
1906-1910	15·0
1911-1915	14·6
1916-1920	13·4
1921-1925	11·5
1926-1930	11·6
1931-1935	11·2
1936	11·3
1937	11·7
1938	10·9
1939	11·4
1940	14·3
1941	13·2
1942	11·8
1943	12·1
1944	11·2
1945	11·2
1946	11·3
1947	11·1
1948	9·8
		10·8

The death-rates in Birmingham from the more prominent causes of death over a series of years are shown below:—

	Cancer	Diseases of the Heart and Blood vessels	Bronchitis. Pneumonia, and other respiratory diseases
1938	1·59	3·45	1·18
1939	1·55	3·65	1·16
1940	1·61	3·31	2·21
1941	1·70	3·10	1·94
1942	1·77	2·87	1·51
1943	1·83	3·02	1·73
1944	1·75	3·15	1·40
1945	1·84	3·14	1·44
1946	1·90	3·36	1·37
1947	1·83	3·34	1·48
1948	1·82	3·00	1·10

Amongst males 75·9% of cancer deaths were due to cancer of digestive and respiratory organs, whilst 64·2% of cancer deaths in women occurred in digestive and genital organs, and 20·3% were due to cancer of the breast.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. General Services.

(a) Laboratory facilities

I—City Bacteriological Laboratory

The work done in the City Bacteriological Laboratory is set out in detail below :

GENERAL LABORATORY	<i>No. of Specimens received for examination</i>
Swabbings, various	1,291
,, diphtheria bacilli	3,183
Sputum for tubercle bacilli	2,034
Sputum others	218
Faeces cultures	3,025
Faeces tubercle bacilli	972
Fluids	266
Blood for Widals	51
Stomach washes	326
Uries	968
Milks	1,529
Milks tubercle bacilli	2,445
Waters	1,301
Shell fish	50
Foods	35
Creams	85
Ice creams	393
Blood cultures	12
Cord powders	2,171
Measles serum	143
Blood films	7
Miscellaneous	20
	20,525

VENEREAL DISEASES LABORATORY

	<i>No. of examinations</i>
Blood for Wassermann reaction	40,524
Cerebro-spinal fluid—	
(a) For Wassermann reaction	1,379
(b) For cell count	415
Films for gonorrhœa	13,171
Urine examinations	186
Gonococcal fixation tests	4,731
Vaccines prepared	13
Cultures for gonorrhœa	10,639
Van den Bergh's tests	2
Kahn tests	17,528
Serum for spirochaetes	1
Paul Bunnell tests	20
Laughlen tests	9,023
TOTAL	97,632

II—City Analytical Laboratory

The following statement indicates the samples analysed in the City Analyst's Department :

Total food and drugs samples	5,345
Total samples incorrect	471
Offences against Preservatives Regulations	5
False labels	12
Offences against Labelling of Food Order	8
" " Food Standards Orders	5
" " Food Orders	30
" " Condensed Milk Regulations	1
" " Food and Drugs Act. Section 3	406
" " Poisons and Pharmacy Act	4
Total miscellaneous samples	1,839
Total samples of all types	7,184
Number of prosecutions	28
Number of fines	16
Amount of fines and costs	£61/0/6
Number of cautions	237

Details of this work are given in the Report of the City Analyst, printed separately.

REPORT ON THE WORKING OF THE AMBULANCE SERVICE, 1948

I am indebted to MR. H. W. COLEMAN, Chief Fire Officer, for the following account of the City Ambulance Service under his executive control.

The Ambulance Service in Birmingham, previously operated by a number of separate and distinct authorities, was taken over by the Birmingham Health Authority on the 5th July, 1948, when all the various sections were combined and operated by the Fire Brigade Committee, acting as agents for the Health Committee.

The Accident Ambulances previously operated by the Watch Committee, and manned by the City Police Force, are now manned by Firemen, and the ambulances engaged on Hospital Removal Service are manned by civilian personnel. The combined Services were renamed "The Birmingham Fire and Ambulance Service," and all personnel are wearing the same uniform and badges of identification.

Control

A new Ambulance Control was set up adjoining the Fire Control in Fire Brigade Headquarters, and communications, in the form of two large switchboards, with 18 exchange lines, which provide the public with means of calling the Service, and private wires communicating with all Fire Stations, the five principal Hospitals, the Ambulance Depots and Police Headquarters, were installed. The Control is so situated that the Fire Brigade Wireless system is also available for use if required.

Emergency Service

Eight ambulances provide emergency service and are strategically sited on different Fire Stations. The City has been divided into 99 operational zones in relation to the hospitals principally concerned with casualties, so that a fair distribution of casualty load has been effected among the hospitals, casualties being conveyed from the scene of an accident to the hospital appropriate to the zone in which it occurs, in the shortest period of time.

Hospital Removal Service

The Hospital Removal Ambulances are operated from two Depots situated near to the City Centre ; a Mobile Surgical Unit which is fully equipped to carry out major surgical operations and blood transfusions at an incident is out-posted at the Birmingham Accident Hospital.

Hospital Car Service

The Hospital Car Service (an arrangement approved by the Health Committee prior to the Appointed Day) continues to carry out certain functions in connection with the conveyance of patients undergoing prolonged treatment to and from hospitals. This service is administered by the British Red Cross Society, and provides for private owners to use their own cars, for which they receive payment at the rate of 6d. per mile. At the present time, journeys are arranged by the hospitals without reference to the Fire and Ambulance Service ; an arrangement which makes it difficult for the Service to avoid duplication of transport, and discussions are at present in progress with the British Red Cross Society with a view to exploring the possibility of introducing some measure of control in the future so that effective co-ordination of journeys may be established.

Hospital Liaison

The increasing traffic which followed immediately upon the change over made it necessary to establish close liaison with the hospitals, and two Liaison Officers were assigned to constantly visit the hospitals to ensure the speedy turn-round of ambulances and the general smooth running of the Hospital Removal Service. This arrangement has resulted in establishing good relations between the Ambulance Service and the Hospitals and the patients concerned.

Mutual Aid

It was also necessary to consider the arrangements for providing mutual aid with other Ambulance Authorities, and to this end satisfactory agreements are in the process of being concluded with adjoining local authorities, and are contemplated with the more distant authorities, for the purpose of rendering mutual assistance when required.

Catastrophe Service

The merging of the Fire and Ambulance Services and the centralisation of Control at Headquarters has provided for the speedy mobilisation of all major mobile emergency apparatus and highly specialised equipment within the City in the event of a major disaster. A Catastrophe Service was therefore organised which provides for the immediate response to a serious situation of a predetermined number of ambulances, fire appliances and special apparatus, and the rapid mobilisation of reinforcements on a large scale ; the notification of the disaster to hospitals and the spreading of casualty load between the different hospitals ; and for the closest liaison with the Police Force at the scene of operations.

Bed Bureau

The Bed Bureau is accommodated in Ambulance Control, and is operated on an agency basis on behalf of the Regional Hospital Board, and since the amalgamation of the services, 5,017 requests for admittances to hospitals were received, and 4,447 beds have been obtained by this means.

Staff

The staff has been increased to meet the heavy additional traffic and the reduction of the working week to 44 hours. The original establishment approved by the Minister of Health, under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act 1946, provided for not more than 240 personnel. The strength on the Appointed Day was 147, including non-operational personnel, and on the 31st December, it was 208. In addition, the whole-time strength has been augmented by an arrangement with the St. John Ambulance Association, to provide sufficient volunteers to be available to man three ambulances each evening between the hours of 6.0 p.m. and 10.0 p.m., and at week-ends.

Ambulance Fleet

The scheme approved by the Ministry of Health under the National Health Service Act, 1946, provided for a fleet of 106 vehicles, i.e., 81, " plus not more than five ambulances and 20 sitting case cars." From the experience gained during the period under review, however, it seems likely that a fleet of 88 ambulances of all types will be sufficient for the needs of the Ambulance Service in the foreseeable future.

The strength as at 31st December, 1948, was :—

General Purposes Ambulances	.....	.....	.....	.....	59
Clinic Ambulances	.....	.....	.....	.....	18
Cars	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Mobile Surgical Unit	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
					—
					83
					—

Accident Incidence

Incidence of accidents during the various hours of the day in relation to the age groups of casualties.

Age Group	Hours of Day												Total 23-00												
	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-00	
5 and under	4	2	3	—	1	—	5	3	8	12	22	23	29	26	32	32	23	26	15	12	10	7	13	308	
6-10	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	6	4	11	15	22	27	29	22	34	39	33	12	12	14	9	2	293	
11-15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	6	10	8	17	13	33	23	25	21	17	20	23	10	15	14	—	258
16-20	19	—	1	5	1	—	1	3	14	6	15	22	21	18	11	21	20	22	16	20	15	32	25	18	326
21-25	26	9	11	4	4	4	3	10	10	12	13	16	27	19	25	30	28	24	20	10	12	9	39	31	396
26-30	15	12	12	3	—	4	4	8	22	13	20	22	27	20	16	21	24	26	15	15	11	18	36	36	400
31-35	17	11	5	4	4	2	2	4	11	13	14	18	19	16	21	23	13	12	19	9	11	11	34	28	321
36-40	14	10	7	1	2	3	1	9	11	15	14	23	21	24	16	29	19	12	18	10	14	6	32	29	340
41-45	10	2	4	1	—	—	1	6	3	8	13	18	15	12	14	15	12	14	9	10	9	6	34	18	234
46-50	13	3	2	—	—	—	1	4	8	10	13	22	11	9	14	23	18	18	10	13	10	13	20	18	253
51-55	10	3	4	2	1	—	2	3	5	12	11	15	12	18	11	17	17	11	13	13	7	4	18	12	221
56-60	8	2	2	3	2	1	3	5	11	5	14	12	20	12	13	17	12	20	19	10	8	9	12	10	230
61-65	5	1	1	—	1	2	5	4	5	7	21	12	12	7	14	7	12	12	9	10	10	13	13	184	
66-70	1	2	2	—	5	—	4	6	14	13	12	12	10	11	15	7	14	5	5	5	8	13	10	176	
Over 70	8	1	2	1	—	3	7	4	16	24	27	31	37	31	19	31	19	24	13	12	16	32	13	372	
Total	150	58	57	27	17	21	23	75	124	151	202	282	286	296	323	295	283	259	187	158	181	338	251	4,312	

Emergency Calls

Emergency Calls for Various Hours of the Day.

Times	0-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12
Calls	161	75	60	32	20	25	31	92	153	174	252	325
Time	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
Calls	335	349	307	373	358	364	307	230	201	218	399	320

The number of casualties in the calls to street accidents (involving vehicles) was 1,235, of which 17 were dead before the arrival of the ambulance, or died on the way to hospital.

Calls Received

The number of ambulance calls received to emergency incidents and the method of calls is set out below.

Exchange Telephone .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,385
" 999 " Telephone .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,819
Police Information Room .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	775
Street Fire Alarm .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21
Messenger .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	132
Observed .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	33
Total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,165

Hospital Removals

Hospital Removals include, in addition to the work carried out by the City Ambulances, that which has been performed by ambulances out-posted at hospitals as indicated in the following table :—

HOSPITAL REMOVAL AMBULANCES

	Analysis	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Clinic	7,200	6,443	6,747	7,613	8,344	8,973	45,320
Admissions	1,341	1,499	1,605	1,696	1,606	1,577	9,324
Discharges	981	1,904	1,902	2,134	1,921	1,968	10,810
Transfer	334	347	350	454	476	466	2,427
Emergency Maternity Service (" Flying Squad ")	7	7	11	9	8	4	46
Maternity	547	583	567	600	576	595	3,468
Miscellaneous	4	9	4	66	80	66	229
Monthly Totals	10,414	10,792	11,186	12,572	13,011	13,649	71,624
TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENTS CONVEYED 71,624								
No. of stretcher cases	18,620	No. of cases from outside City into City .....		..... 482		.....
No. of sitting cases	53,004	No. of cases from inside City to outside City .....		..... 3,207		.....
OTHER AMBULANCES								
Mobile Surgical Unit : No. of calls	22	Monyhull Colony : No. of journeys .....		..... 168		.....
Little Bronwich : No. of patients (Infections)	981	Yardley Green Road : No. of patients (Tuberculosis)		..... 786		.....
BED BUREAU : No. of beds obtained	4,447						

Mileage

AMBULANCES

	<i>Removal Ambulances</i>	<i>Accident Ambulances</i>	<i>Out-posted Ambulances</i>	<i>Total</i>
July	66,177	6,547	4,865	77,589
August	70,670	5,731	5,071	81,472
September	75,016	4,144	4,413	83,573
October	85,395	5,252	4,413	95,060
November	89,710	8,025	4,952	102,687
December	94,877	5,609	4,597	105,083
	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
	481,845	35,308	28,311	545,464
	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE

July ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9,658
August ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	15,186
September ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	15,486
October ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	15,810
November ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	16,537
December ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	15,619
								<hr/>
								88,296
								<hr/>

Removal of Aged and Infirm Persons

During 1948, 87 cases were investigated with a view to possible removal to an institution under either the Birmingham Corporation Acts, 1929-35, or the National Assistance Act, 1948. This figure represents a substantial increase over the 51 cases investigated during 1947, and there are indications that an increasing number of elderly persons are likely to come under review by this Department in the future. There appears to be more than one main factor involved. The shortage of housing accommodation makes it very difficult for sons and daughters to undertake the care of aged parents in their own homes. Beyond this, there would seem also to be some weakening of family ties, so that in some cases not only was no active assistance given, but the responsibility for the well-being of the aged was left to neighbours. During the early part of the year, application was made to the Court on two occasions for the compulsory removal to an institution of persons of this category living under grossly insanitary conditions, and an Order was granted in each case. Of the remaining 85 cases, 20 voluntarily entered an institution, and in 65 cases it was judged inappropriate to take compulsory action.

Health Centres

During the latter half of 1948 discussions took place between the Health Committee, the Birmingham Executive Council and the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board on aspects of the provision of Health Centres in which they were severally interested.

Plans were prepared earlier in the year and submitted to the Ministry of Health for an Experimental Health Centre at Stechford, this proposal being the sequel to one which had been under consideration by the Health Committee some years previously. To the considerable surprise of the Committee this proposal proved unacceptable to the Ministry of Health ; and there the position remained at the end of the year. Happily, following on further discussion with the Ministry early in 1949, the latter felt able to give their approval to the scheme, as well as to the completion as a health centre of another building (Kingston Hill), partly constructed as a Child Welfare Centre but left uncompleted through the outbreak of the war. Particulars as to these and as to the ear-marking of sites for other centres will be included in the next report.

REPORT ON MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

By DR. JEAN M. MACKINTOSH,

Senior Assistant Medical Officer of Health (for Maternity and Child Welfare).

VITAL STATISTICS, 1948

For the purpose of this Report the population given by the Registrar-General is used for the birth-rate, but the figures used for the stillbirths, infant and maternal deaths are local figures.

Births—Live Births, 21,346 (20,192 legitimate, 1,154 illegitimate).

There were 310 sets of twins and 2 sets of triplets born in 1948.

Population, Registrar-General's estimate, 1,096,100.

Birth-rate, 19·5 per 1,000 population.

Illegitimate Birth-rate, 5·4 per cent. of live births.

Infant deaths, 674 (623 legitimate, 51 illegitimate).

Infant Death-rate, 32 per 1,000 live births (31 legitimate, 44 illegitimate).

Stillbirths, 476 (445 legitimate, 31 illegitimate).

Stillbirth Rate, 21·8 per 1,000 total births (live and still), (21·6 legitimate, 26·2 illegitimate).

Neo-natal Deaths, 384 (356 legitimate, 28 illegitimate).

Neo-natal Mortality, 18·0 per 1,000 live births (17·6 legitimate, 24·3 illegitimate).

Maternal Mortality Rates in Childbirth (11 deaths, none following abortions), excluding deaths after abortion, 0·50 per 1,000 total births (live and still), or 0·51 per 1,000 live births.

GENERAL COMMENTS

The coming into force of the National Health Service Act on the 5th July, 1948 introduced a new set of circumstances which may, in time, have an influence on the volume and content of the work of Maternity and Child Welfare. As far as could be judged at the end of 1948, the new arrangements whereby the services of a family doctor were available for every member of the community had had no influence on the attendance at child welfare clinics. There was, however, some diminution in the attendance at antenatal clinics of women who were to be confined in their own homes. The transfer of maternity units to the Regional Hospital Board introduced certain administrative difficulties in another direction. These matters are referred to in greater detail in the section on Maternity Services.

Births

The birth rate fell from 22.2 in 1947 to 19.5 in 1948. The illegitimate birth rate per 1,000 live births was 54.1.

	<i>Illegitimate Births per 1,000 live births</i>		<i>Illegitimate Births per 1,000 live births</i>
1941	48.2	1945	92.0
1942	54.3	1946	67.6
1943	57.6	1947	54.7
1944	64.1	1948	54.1

Stillbirths

The stillbirth rate for 1948 shows a fall from 24 in 1947 to 22 in 1948 and is the lowest ever recorded in the City.

	<i>Rate per 1,000 total births</i>		<i>Rate per 1,000 total births</i>
1941	29	1945	25
1942	28	1946	25
1943	27	1947	24
1944	25	1948	22

A special investigation into stillbirths taking place in and belonging to Birmingham has been made by Dr. Crosse. Stillbirths occurring outside the City and credited to Birmingham are excluded.

STILLBIRTH RATE BY CAUSE OF DEATH, 1945-48

(Birmingham births occurring in Birmingham)

		1945	1946	1947	1948
(1) Deaths occurring before labour :					
Known causes :					
Toxaemia	....	2.3	1.5	2.4	2.3
Syphilis	....	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
Rhesus incompatibility	....	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.7
Other maternal conditions	....	0.9	1.1	0.4	0.5
Separation of placenta	....	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.7
Foetal deformity	....	1.6	1.3	1.2	0.8
Other conditions	....	0.8	0.6	1.1	0.5
Unknown causes	....	3.6	4.3	4.0	3.3
All causes of death before labour	....	10.0	9.8	10.0	9.0

(2) Deaths occurring during labour :

Antenatal causes

Toxaemia	.....	1.5	1.0	1.3	1.6
Syphilis	.....	0.2	—	0.1	—
Rhesus incompatibility	.....	—	0.1	0.1	—
Other maternal conditions	.....	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Separation of placenta	.....	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.5

Foetal deformity	1.7	2.5	2.1	1.7
------------------	-------	-----	-----	-----	-----

Intranatal causes :

Breech	.....	1.9	3.3	3.0	2.1
Other difficult labours	.....	4.0	3.6	3.2	2.7
Other intranatal causes	.....	2.2	2.7	2.0	1.9

Unknown causes	1.8	1.6	1.3	2.2
----------------	-------	-----	-----	-----	-----

All causes of death during labour	14.7	15.8	13.8	12.8
-----------------------------------	-------	------	------	------	------

Total Stillbirth Rate	24.7	25.6	23.8	21.8
-----------------------	-------	------	------	------	------

The stillbirth rate among Birmingham births occurring in Birmingham reached a new low level during 1948. Deaths from the various causes fluctuate from year to year and it is impossible to give a definite cause for the reduction.

Infant Mortality—Cause of Death.

The infant mortality rate in common with that of the country as a whole has shown a dramatic fall, from 41 in 1947 to 32 in 1948. This figure establishes a new record in the City.

	<i>Bir-</i> <i>mingham</i>	<i>England</i> <i>and Wales</i>		<i>Bir-</i> <i>mingham</i>	<i>England</i> <i>and Wales</i>
1941	69	59	1945	49	46
1942	56	49	1946	40	43
1943	55	49	1947	41	41
1944	42	46	1948	32	34

The following table shows the main causes of infant death for the years 1944 to 1948 :—

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Total infant death rate	42	49	40	41	32
Respiratory disease	7.9	11.2	8.1	8.6	6.0
Diarrhoea and enteritis	5.8	7.3	6.4	7.0	3.1
Congenital malformations	5.7	5.7	4.8	5.1	4.7
Prematurity	9.3	10.5	7.8	5.9	5.3
Atrophy, debility, marasmus and atelectasis	2.6	1.8	2.4	2.6	1.5
Injury at birth	2.8	2.6	4.6	4.8	4.9
Other causes	7.9	9.9	5.9	6.6	6.5

The improvement in the infant mortality rate is due to a fall in the deaths from respiratory disease, a drop of more than 50 per cent. in the deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis, and a slight lowering of the death-rates from congenital malformations, prematurity and atrophy, debility, marasmus and atelectasis.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1948

Deaths from stated causes in weeks and months under one year of age

Cause of Death	WEEKS				Total under One Month	MONTHS				Total Deaths under One Year		
	0—	1—	2—	3—		1—	3—	6—	9—			
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	
Scarlet fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	
Whooping cough	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	7	1	18		
Diphtheria and croup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Influenza	—	—	1	—	1	1	2	1	—	—	5	
Tuberculous meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
Abdominal tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other tuberculous diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	8	12		
Rickets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Meningitis (not tuberculous)	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3	
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	
Bronchitis	—	1	—	—	1	2	3	2	2	—	9	
Pneumonia (all forms)	11	2	6	5	24	38	33	13	10	118		
Gastritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Diarrhoea, enteritis, etc.	—	2	1	1	4	18	29	14	1	66		
Congenital malformations	51	10	6	2	69	17	9	4	2	101		
Premature birth	105	6	—	—	111	1	—	—	—	112		
Atrophy, debility and marasmus	—	1	—	—	2	3	—	3	—	—	6	
Atelectasis	—	23	2	—	—	25	1	—	—	—	36	
Injury at birth	—	97	3	3	—	103	1	—	—	—	104	
Suffocation (overlying)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	
Otitis media & mastoiditis	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	—	—	7	
Other causes	—	35	4	3	—	42	13	8	9	7	79	
All causes	—	324	30	19	11	384	102	99	58	31	674	
Total live births (including 363 in Marston Green Maternity Hospital)											21,346	

Neonatal death rate 18·0
1—12 months rate 13·6

Neonatal Mortality

The neonatal death rate per 1,000 live births (i.e., the rate below 4 weeks of age) for 1948 shows a fall compared with 1947, as the following table shows :—

	<i>Rate per</i> 1,000 live births		<i>Rate per</i> 1,000 live births		
1941	29.1	1945	....	22.5
1942	30.1	1946	....	22.1
1943	25.7	1947	....	20.9
1944	22.2	1948	....	18.0

An investigation, similar to that carried out in relation to stillbirths, has been made into neonatal deaths occurring in births belonging to and taking place in Birmingham. The result is shown in the following table :—

NEONATAL DEATH RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS
(Birmingham births occurring in Birmingham)

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
<i>Antenatal causes :</i>							
Toxaemia	2.3	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.1
Syphilis	—	0.2	0.1	—	—	0.1
Rhesus incompatibility	2.3	—	0.1	0.5	0.9	0.6
Other causes	—	2.1	1.3	1.5	1.8	2.5
<i>Intranatal causes :</i>							
Breech presentation	1.8	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.7
Other causes	4.6	3.7	4.1	3.5	4.9	4.3
<i>Postnatal causes :</i>							
Infections	3.6	3.1	3.1	2.4	3.1	3.1
Other causes	1.8	2.0	1.5	2.0	1.4	1.6
Foetal abnormality	5.4	5.3	4.2	3.8	3.3	3.1
Prematurity only	8.2	7.2	5.8	5.9	4.7	4.0
TOTAL	30.0	25.6	22.1	21.6	22.2	20.5
							17.8

An analysis of the age at death for the same group of cases is shown below :—

NEO-NATAL DEATHS, 1948. AGE AT DEATH
(Birmingham births occurring in Birmingham)

<i>Age at Death</i>	<i>Per cent. of deaths.</i>	<i>Per cent. of live births</i>
Less than 24 hours	.... 46.2	0.8
24—48 hours	.... 16.0	0.3
48 hours to 1 week	.... 22.0	0.4
1—2 weeks	....	0.1
2—3 weeks	....	0.1
3—4 weeks	....	0.1
All ages to 4 weeks	....	1.8

Death Rate—4 weeks to 1 year

The death rate in this age-period shows a substantial fall, mainly due to a fall in the death rate from infections.

	Death rate per 1,000 live births				Death rate per 1,000 live births		
1941	39.9	1945	....	....	26.5
1942	25.9	1946	....	....	17.9
1943	29.3	1947	....	....	19.5
1944	19.8	1948	....	....	13.6

Legitimacy

The illegitimate infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate births was 44, whilst the corresponding rate for legitimate births was 31.

	Legitimate Infant Death rate	Illegitimate Infant Death rate		Legitimate Infant Death rate	Illegitimate Infant Death rate
1941	69	75	1945	49	56
1942	54	83	1946	39	54
1943	56	52	1947	39	64
1944	41	62	1948	31	44

The main causes of death in illegitimate infants compared with legitimate infants is shown in the following table :—

	Rate per 1,000					
	Legitimate live births			Illegitimate live births		
	1946	1947	1948	1946	1947	1948
Infectious disease	—	1.7	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.2
Tuberculosis	—	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.6	—
Respiratory disease	—	7.1	8.3	5.8	16.8	14.5
Diarrhoea and enteritis	—	5.6	6.5	3.0	14.2	15.3
Congenital malformations	—	4.8	5.1	4.8	1.9	5.3
Premature birth	—	7.5	5.6	5.3	11.6	10.7
Atrophy, debility, marasmus and atelectasis	—	2.1	2.5	1.4	4.5	3.8
Injury at birth	—	4.5	4.7	4.9	3.2	5.3
Other causes	—	4.3	5.1	4.1	12.2	7.6
						13.0

Infant Mortality in Wards of the City

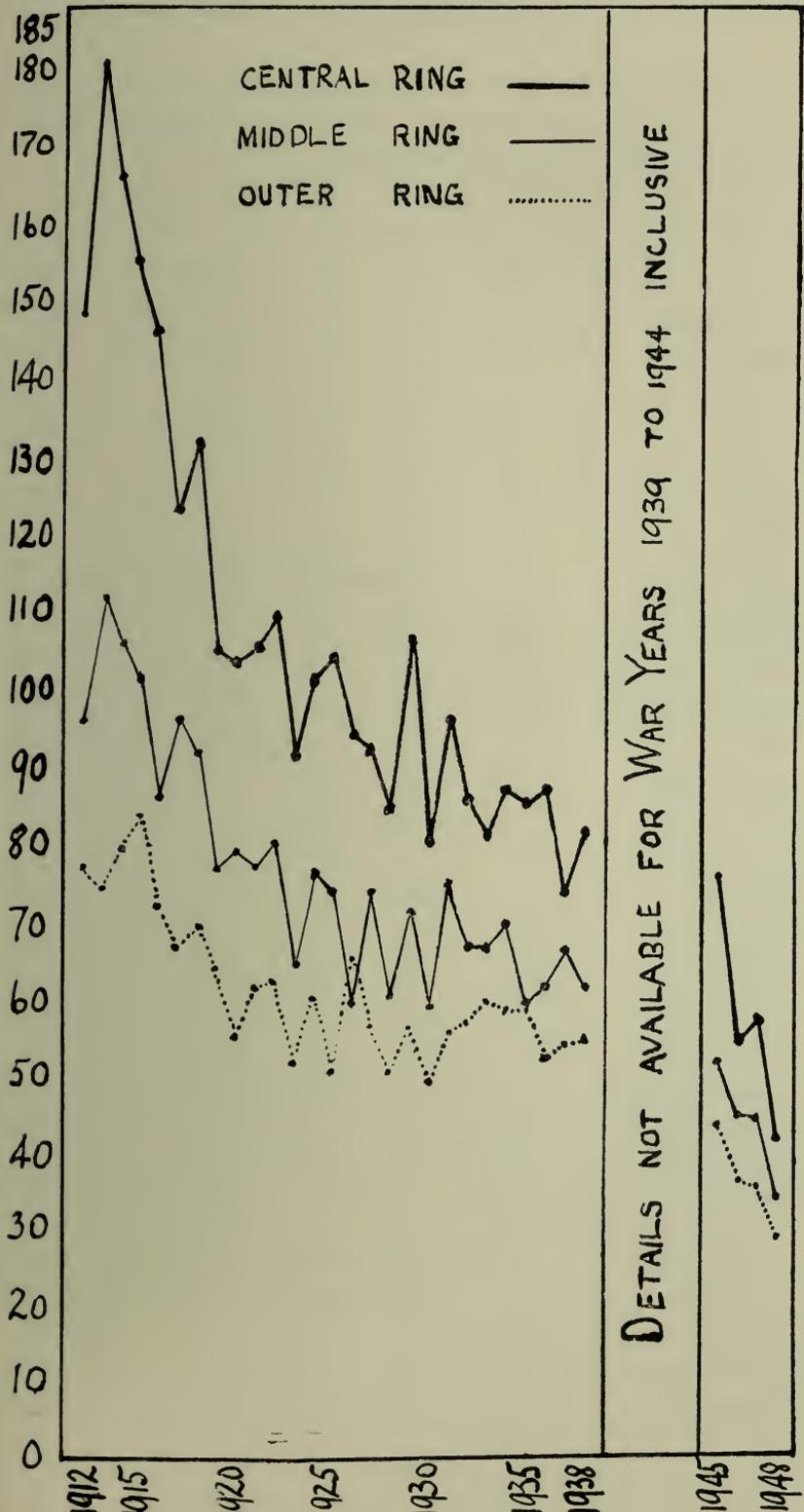
The appended table shows the infant mortality in the groups of wards of the City in 1948. The average mortality in the groups of wards ten years ago is given for comparison.

<i>Central Wards</i>		<i>Middle Ring</i>		<i>Outer Ring</i>					
St. Paul's	....	41	Lozells	....	20	Soho	....	....	43
St. Mary's	....	40	Aston	....	39	Sandwell	....	....	35
Duddeston and			Washwood Heath		40	Handsworth	....	....	49
Nechells	....	42	Saltley	....	49	Perry Barr	....	....	24
St. Bartholomew's	44		Small Heath	....	37	Erdington	....	....	29
St. Martin's and			Sparkbrook	....	28	Gravelly Hill	....	....	31
Deritend	....	38	Balsall Heath	....	28	Bromford	....	....	36
Market Hall	....	45	Edgbaston	....	22	Stechford	....	....	27
Ladywood	....	41	Rotton Park	....	25	Yardley	....	....	32
			All Saints'	....	37	Acock's Green	....	....	33
						Hall Green	....	....	15
						Sparkhill	....	....	20
						Moseley and King's			
						Heath	....	....	25
						Selly Oak	....	....	27
						King's Norton	....	....	31
						Northfield	....	....	25
						Harborne	....	....	22
Average in 1948	41	Average in 1948		31	Average in 1948			28	
Average in 1947	56	Average in 1947		43	Average in 1947			35	
Average in 1938	81	Average in 1938		62	Average in 1938			54	

The following diagram shows the fall in infantile mortality in each of the three groups of wards during the past 36 years. The rates for the war years are not shown as during that time, for various reasons, the information at our disposal was not such as to enable us to arrive at accurate figures.

Infant Mortality Rates

BIRMINGHAM INFANT MORTALITY RATES IN GROUPS OF WARDS



Infant Death Rate and Stillbirth Rate according to Welfare Centre Districts

The following table shows the infant death rate and stillbirth rate according to welfare centre districts. Although the numbers involved are comparatively small, the trend is of interest.

	Infant death rate			Stillbirth rate		
	1946	1947	1948	1946	1947	1948
Tennal Road	17	47	26	16	7	25
King's Heath	21	29	27	21	16	15
Tower Hill	20	18	25	23	12	29
Stirchley	23	42	27	24	28	20
Bromford	34	42	32	15	25	13
Handsworth	35	36	39	15	20	21
Selly Oak	20	27	23	30	25	18
Acocks Green	32	27	34	20	26	16
Kingstanding	30	44	24	24	17	23
Northfield	36	39	21	19	26	22
Horrell Road	32	25	24	24	21	19
Washwood Heath	38	45	39	23	20	16
Hay Mills	36	37	29	25	22	18
Treaford Lane	34	28	31	28	15	24
Greet	36	28	18	29	27	23
Weoley Castle	47	37	33	21	15	15
Harborne	33	23	22	35	37	10
Carnegie	45	41	29	24	20	28
Erdington	41	27	30	28	28	25
Floodgate Street	35	40	36	34	20	19
Kettlehouse	42	38	29	27	40	37
Stratford Road	43	47	29	26	18	28
Lansdowne Street	50	40	28	20	24	18
Trinity Road	45	25	44	25	20	20
Sutton Street	45	54	41	27	37	18
Monument Road	50	48	31	24	30	18
Yardley Wood	39	27	15	35	16	17
Lancaster Street	53	48	48	25	20	37
Hope Street	55	50	26	26	27	23
Lea Hall	61	39	27	20	16	23
Langley Road	50	40	39	32	22	21
Irving Street	54	63	39	30	15	18

For the purpose of comparison of the districts with the lowest and highest infant death and stillbirth rates, the six lowest have been grouped together (Group I) and the six highest (Group II).

GROUP I

Year	Total Live Births	Infant Mort- ality Rate	Neo- natal Death Rate	Still- birth Rate	Diarr- hoea & Enteritis				Premat- urity Death Rate	Birth injury Death Rate	Congen- ital Malform- ations
					Respir- atory Death Rate	Death Rate	Death Rate	Premat- urity Death Rate			
1946	3,360	23	14	21	5·6	3·0	4·2	2·6	3·8		
1947	4,064	25	14·5	15·7	6·6	2·7	3·7	3·9	4·2		
1948	3,693	21	13·3	18·3	4·9	0·3	3·8	3·5	3·2		

GROUP II

1946	3,734	53	26	27	11·7	9·6	10·2	4·5	5·8
1947	4,221	50	21·3	30·3	10·9	12·6	6·2	4·0	6·6
1948	4,497	40	22·2	24·9	7·8	4·9	7·3	5·1	6·0

Maternal Mortality in Childbirth

The deaths of women classed to pregnancy and child-bearing in Birmingham during 1948 gave a maternal mortality rate of 0·50 per 1,000 live and still births. None of these deaths followed abortion. This is also a new low record. The equivalent rate based on live births only are 0·51 per 1,000 live births.

	Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths (excluding abortions)				Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths (excluding abortions)			
	England and		England and		England and		England and	
	Birmingham	Wales	Birmingham	Wales	Birmingham	Wales	Birmingham	Wales
1941	1·95	2·23	....	1945	....	1·21	1·46
1942	1·82	2·01	....	1946	....	0·64	1·24
1943	1·35	1·84	....	1947	....	0·73	1·01
1944	0·95	1·53	....	1948	....	0·50	0·86

At the request of the Ministry of Health, a medical enquiry has been made in the case of every maternal death in childbirth during each year since 1929. The information so obtained, direct from doctors, midwives and hospitals, makes it possible to classify the deaths more accurately than from the consideration of death certificates alone.

A. Deaths due to pregnancy and childbirth	....	....	....	11
B. Deaths due to associated conditions	....	....	....	11
TOTAL	....	....	....	22

<i>A. Deaths due to pregnancy and childbirth.</i> (11)										0
1. Not associated with a notifiable birth	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	0
2. Associated with a notifiable birth	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	11
(a) Sepsis	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
(b) Toxaemia :										
Eclamptic	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Non-eclamptic	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
(c) Haemorrhage :	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	0
(d) Difficult and abnormal labour										
Severe shock	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
Ruptured uterus	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1

B. Deaths due to associated causes. (11)

Pulmonary tuberculosis (1 abortion)	....	....	....	....	2
Other accident (criminal abortion)	....	....	....	....	1
Pernicious anaemia (abortion)	....	....	....	....	1
Tumour of ovary	....	....	....	....	1
Renal disease	....	....	....	....	1
Influenza	....	....	....	....	1
Heart disease	....	....	....	....	3
Puerperal mania (suicide)	....	....	....	....	1

A review of the circumstances of every case of maternal death makes it possible to estimate whether or not there was any avoidable factor, and in this respect the cases have been classified according to the following table :—

	<i>Sepsis</i> (2)	<i>Toxaemia</i> (4)	<i>Other Obstetrical Causes</i> (5)	<i>Associated Conditions</i> (11)
Lack or inadequacy of ante-natal care	....	0	3	0
Lack or inadequacy of obstetric facilities	....	0	1	1
Lack or inadequacy of specialist or hospital treatment	....	0	0	1
Lack of co-operation from patient	....	0	1	1
Safety only by avoidance or termination of pregnancy	0	0	1	5
No avoidable factor	....	2	0	2
Total number of cases in which one or more avoidable factors were present	....	....	....	11
Total number of cases in which death apparently was inevitable	....	....	....	9
Total number of cases where assessment not possible	....	....	....	2
				—
				22
				—

Comparison with Previous Years :

A comparison of the maternal death rate figures in the principal groups with those of previous years is shown hereunder :—

Death-rate per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths :

Year	Abortion	Sepsis	Toxaemia	Haemorrhage	Other puerperal causes	Total coded to puerperal causes	Maternal deaths due and coded to "associated conditions"
1938	0.55	0.67	0.72	0.67	0.28	2.88	1.16
1939	0.66	0.33	0.55	0.50	0.44	2.48	.44
1940	0.56	0.39	0.62	0.23	0.34	2.14	.45
1941	0.67	0.24	0.49	0.24	0.79	2.43	.73
1942	0.57	0.47	0.57	0.26	0.57	2.48	.78
1943	0.43	0.43	0.48	0.29	0.05	1.69	.53
1944	0.39	0.30	0.26	0.13	0.26	1.34	.69
1945	0.29	0.29	0.49	0.05	0.29	1.41	.44
1946	0.17	0.04	0.30	0.10	0.21	0.85	.47
1947	0.20	0.12	0.25	0.04	0.37	0.98	.57
1948	—	0.09	0.18	—	0.23	0.50	.50

The following table gives the age grouping of maternal deaths since 1939 :—

	<i>Under</i> 20 years	20-25 yrs.	25-30 yrs.	30-35 yrs.	35-40 yrs.	<i>40 years and over</i>	
1939	2	4	14	21	7	4
1940	1	10	14	8	7	5
1941	0	7	12	8	20	5
1942	3	13	15	17	12	2
1943	2	9	8	11	7	7
1944	1	12	10	14	8	4
1945	0	5	8	10	10	2
1946	2	4	4	6	12	3
1947	1	6	7	7	12	5
1948	0	4	6	4	6	2
	12	74	98	106	101	39	

Puerperal Pyrexia and Puerperal Sepsis

The following table shows the number of cases of puerperal pyrexia during 1948 and the preceding 4 years.

The out-of-city cases are those not normally resident in Birmingham, but coming into the City for confinement.

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Total puerperal pyrexia cases	352	338	310	244	206
Out-of-city cases	20	32	13	38	18
Birmingham cases	332	306	297	206	188

Detailed information is obtained in nearly all the Birmingham cases, and is shown in the following tables :—

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Number of cases investigated	332	306	297	206	188
Abortions	26	28	21	13	15
Total, excluding abortions	306	278	276	193	173

Details of Birmingham Cases

Primiparae	156	152	171	109	83
Multiparae	128	117	96	77	77
Parity not stated	48	37	30	20	28
Transferred to hospital for treatment	111	84	85	69	46
Already in hospital	117	117	127	74	35
Transferred from maternity homes to hospital	—	—	—	—	37
Cases transferred to district nurse	67	66	51	44	46
Cases nursed by midwife or relative	6	10	10	6	7
Not known	—	—	1	—	2
Consultant called in	5	1	2	—	—
Deaths (a) Childbirth	5	4	2	3	—
(b) Abortion	—	1	1	—	—

The antenatal care in the 173 Birmingham cases of puerperal pyrexia in 1948 was as follows :—

Sufficient antenatal care	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	150
Insufficient antenatal care	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11
Not stated	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
							173

The 173 cases of puerperal pyrexia have been analysed as far as possible with a view to discovering the cause of the pyrexia.

The suggested causes are as follows :—

(1) Due to infection of the genital tract	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	81
Uterine infection	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	37
Subinvolution	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15
Septic abortion	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15
Retained products	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Perineum infection	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
(2) Due to extra-genital infection	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	87
Urinary infection	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15
Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Upper respiratory infection	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Intra-thoracic infection	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15
Mastitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22
Infectious disease	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Toxaemia of pregnancy	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Thrombo-phlebitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Other causes	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
(3) Causes not known	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

During the year 1948 there were 819 cases of ophthalmia neonatorum notified, of which 6 were treated in Hospital. No impairment of vision occurred in any case reported to the department.

Pemphigus

Number of cases of pemphigus which occurred on the district during						
1948						5
Admitted to hospital						-
Nursed at home :—						
(a) by district nurse						-
(b) by relative						5
Number of cases of pemphigus which occurred in institutions during						
1948						5

All cases of pemphigus which occurred during 1948 recovered.

PREMATURITY

Premature births (babies with a birthweight of $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less), born in Birmingham to Birmingham residents were investigated by Dr. Crosse during 1948.

This investigation was made in order to analyse the primary factors leading eventually to stillbirth, or to the infant death among premature infants.

Of the total of 1,652 premature births, 221 were stillborn. The 1,431 live births showed the following weight distribution :—

Up to 2 lbs.	36 babies = 2·5% of the total
2-3 lbs.	81 babies = 5·7%
3-4 lbs.	159 babies = 11·1%
4-5 lbs.	526 babies = 36·7%
5-5½ lbs.	629 babies = 44·0%

Incidence

Premature babies formed 7·6% of all births, live and still, and 6·7 of live births only. The incidence of premature births in the various categories of births and deaths is given below for the years 1943-48 :—

Incidence of Premature Birth as a percentage of :

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Total birth rate	6·0	6·3	7·2	7·9	7·9	7·6
Stillbirth rate	41·4	44·2	44·8	41·3	47·1	47·0
Live birth rate	5·4	5·4	6·2	7·1	6·9	6·7
Neonatal death rate	58·7	59·3	59·2	54·2	56·9	59·6
Death rate 1-12 months	—	—	—	—	16·5	21·2
Infant mortality rate	—	—	—	—	34·4	42·9

The percentages relating to the death rate 1-12 months and the total infant mortality rate are not available for the years 1943-46.

Mortality

The mortality rates from the different causes of death are given below for (1) the premature births, and (2) babies weighing over $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. at birth, the latter being added for comparison so that the true hazard of prematurity can be realised.

Stillbirths

STILLBIRTH RATE BY CAUSE OF DEATH FOR PREMATURE BIRTHS AND BABIES OVER 5½ LBS.

<i>Causes of death</i>	<i>Premature deaths (per 1,000 Premature births, live and still)</i>	<i>Deaths of babies over 5½ lbs. (per 1,000 births over 5½ lbs. live and still)</i>
<i>Ante-natal deaths :</i>		
(a) Known causes :		
Toxaemia	23·0	0·5
Syphilis	2·4	—
Rhesus incompatibility	6·6	0·2
Other maternal conditions	4·2	0·2
Separation of placenta	7·4	0·2
Foetal deformity	9·7	0·1
Other conditions	4·2	0·2
(b) Unknown	23·0	1·7
Total ante-natal deaths	80·5	3·1
<i>Intra-natal deaths :</i>		
(a) Ante-natal causes :		
Toxaemia	12·7	0·7
Syphilis	0·6	—
Rhesus incompatibility	—	—
Other maternal conditions	0·6	—
Separation of placenta	4·8	0·2
Foetal deformity	14·8	0·6
(b) Intra-natal causes :		
Breech presentation	6·6	1·8
Difficult labour	3·0	2·7
Other	4·2	1·7
(c) Unknown	6·0	1·8
Total intra-natal deaths	53·3	9·5
Total stillbirth rate	133·8	12·6

The greater proportion of stillbirths occurring before the onset of labour are classed as premature births because they weigh 5½ lbs. or less. This is not, however, a true picture of the causation of stillbirth in these cases which is, in fact, attributable to the antenatal causes shown in the table above.

On the other hand, the increased risk of death during labour from intranatal causes is a result of the prematurity and arises from a greater chance of breech presentation, more risk of cord complications and a greater susceptibility to intracranial birth injury. The stillbirth rate in both groups has reached a new low record.

Infant Mortality Rate

For 1948 the infant mortality rate was 201 per 1,000 premature births and 19 per 1,000 babies born weighing over $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

Neonatal Mortality

NEONATAL DEATH RATES FOR PREMATURE BABIES AND BABIES OVER $5\frac{1}{2}$ LBS.

<i>Cause of death</i>	<i>Deaths of premature babies (per 1,000 live premature births)</i>	<i>Deaths of babies over $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. (per 1,000 live births over $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.)</i>
Ante-natal causes :		
Toxaemia	18.9	0.1
Syphilis	1.4	—
Rhesus incompatibility	2.6	0.8
Other	37.7	—
Foetal deformity	16.8	2.3
Intra-natal causes :		
Breech.....	2.1	0.2
Difficult labour	1.4	0.8
Other causes	20.2	1.6
Post-natal causes :		
Infection	10.5	1.4
Other	7.0	0.4
Unknown	40.0	0.1
Total neo-natal death rates	158.6	7.7

As in the case of stillbirths, the greater proportion of neonatal deaths are classed as premature births because they weigh $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less but the deaths occurring among premature infants and attributed to antenatal causes in the table above are, in fact, due to these causes and not to a prematurity which is merely the result of these causes. On the other hand, as in the case of stillbirths, the prematurity itself is the direct cause of the greatly increased risk of death from intranatal causes, postnatal causes and prematurity only. During 1948, the risk of neonatal death was nearly 21 times greater for the premature births than for the baby weighing over $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. at birth.

NEONATAL DEATHS (PER CENT.) IN THE VARIOUS BIRTHWEIGHT GROUPS

<i>Birth Weight</i>	<i>1945 (1,222 babies)</i>	<i>1946 (1,560 babies)</i>	<i>1947 (1,648 babies)</i>	<i>1948 (1,431 babies)</i>
Up to 2 lbs.	100.0	100.0	93.0	97.2
2—3 lbs.	80.0	77.4	71.1	75.3
3—4 lbs.	45.2	35.2	33.8	35.2
4—5 lbs.	14.0	9.2	7.6	11.0
5— $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	6.7	3.4	6.0	3.2
All weights to $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	21.1	17.3	16.8	16.0

This table shows the decrease in the neonatal death rate in each weight group as between 1945 and 1948, though there has been an upward movement in some of the age-groups in 1948.

It is of interest to note the age at death of premature babies and of infants over $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. who died during the first 4 weeks of life:—

Age at death	Premature babies		Babies over $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	
	Per cent. of deaths	Per cent. of live births	Per cent. of deaths	Per cent. of live births
Less than 24 hours	52·0	8·3	37·6	0·3
24—48 hours	21·7	3·4	7·7	0·1
48 hours to 1 week	17·6	2·8	28·5	0·2
1—2 weeks	.....	5·3	0·8	11·7
2—3 weeks	.....	1·7	0·3	10·0
3—4 weeks	.....	1·7	0·3	4·5
All ages to 4 weeks	100·0	15·9	100·0	0·8

No less than 52% of the premature infant deaths occur during the first 24 hours after birth and 91% during the first week ; while the corresponding figures for babies weighing over $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. at birth are 37% and 74%.

Death Rate from 1—12 months

Deaths over 4 weeks have also been divided into premature babies, and those over $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. at birth ; and the following table shows the relative risks of death from each important cause for the two groups.

DEATHS OVER 4 WEEKS AND UNDER 1 YEAR, 1948

Cause of death	Premature babies		Babies over $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
	(Rate per 1,000 Premature live births)	(Rate per 1,000 live births over $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.)	
Infections :			
Respiratory	11·9	3·5
Digestive	6·2	2·6
Other	13·3	2·9
Foetal deformity	7·7	1·1
Other causes	3·5	1·3
Total death rate 4 weeks—1 year	42·6	11·4

This table shows that the relatively high death rate from infections continues in premature infants even after the first 4 weeks of life. The high death rate from deformities in premature infants is due to the high incidence of prematurity in cases of deformity ; the prematurity being the result, and not the cause, of the deformity.

Summary of Results

Although results have been steadily improved the mortalities can still be considerably reduced. It is of interest to realise that the group of 4 maternity hospitals, which used to be known as the City Maternity Homes, show a premature neonatal death rate of 95 per 1,000 living pre-matures, and a stillbirth rate of less than 100 per 1,000 total premature births, as against 159 and 134 for the City as a whole.

Improvement is required mainly in the group of babies weighing over 4 lbs. at birth and this group includes approximately 80% of all premature babies. In the 4 maternity hospitals mentioned above, the neonatal death rates for premature babies weighing 4 to 5 lbs. and 5 to 5½ lbs. are only $\frac{2}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ respectively of the rates for infants in these weight groups, born in their own homes.

The following table shows the history of the 1,648 premature babies born alive in Birmingham during 1947 and reaching the age of one year during 1948 :—

FOLLOW-UP TO 1 YEAR. 1,648 PREMATURE BABIES BORN IN 1947

		<i>Up to 2 lbs.</i>	<i>2—3 lbs.</i>	<i>3—4 lbs.</i>	<i>4—5 lbs.</i>	<i>5—5½ lbs. to 5½ lbs.</i>	<i>All weights</i>
(1) Births	.....	43	114	204	600	687	1,648
(2) Neo-natal deaths	.....	40	81	69	46	41	277
(3) Alive at 4 weeks	.....	3	33	135	554	646	1,371
(4) Left City	.....	—	—	8	22	34	64
(5) Untraced at 1 year	.....	—	—	1	7	22	30
(6) Traced to death or 1 year	.....	3	33	126	525	590	1,277
(7) Died after 4 weeks and before 1 year	.....	—	4	9	34	25	72
Per cent. of 6	.....	—	12.1	7.1	6.5	4.2	5.6
(8) Alive at 1 year	.....	3	29	117	491	565	1,205

(9) Abnormalities found in children alive at 1 year :

1 back- ward.	1 Mongol	2 Mongols.	1 Mongol.	7 mentally and physi- ally defec- tive.
1 spastic and back- ward.	2 back- ward.	1 Micro- cephalic	2 back- ward.	
1 cataract and back- ward.		and back- ward.	2 spastic (unilateral).	6 mentally backward.
		ward.	1 Hydro- cephalic.	8 physically defective.
		3 congen- ital hearts.	1 Talipes. 1 cleft palate.	

MATERNITY SERVICES

The births occurring in the City during the year were as follows :—

	<i>Live</i>	<i>Stillbirths</i>
Births notified	22,575	589
Failed to notify	178	1
	22,753	590
Total : 23,343*		

Total : 23,343*

*This figure does not include Birmingham births occurring outside the City but does include the births in the City of over 2,000 infants whose parents normally reside outside the City. It includes 310 sets of twins (279 sets both living, 28 sets 1 living and 1 stillborn, and 3 sets both stillborn), and 2 sets of triplets (1 all living and 1 with 2 living and 1 still-born).

This figure shows a decrease of approximately 2,500 births compared with the number of births notified in the City during 1947.

The following table gives details of where confinements took place within the City :—

DOMICILIARY CONFINEMENTS

Attended by midwives only	7,496
Doctor booked for confinement	1,800
Doctor called in for confinement by midwife	567
Attended by ambulance nurse	142
	10,005

INSTITUTIONAL CONFINEMENTS

Total confinements in Nursing Homes	1,501
" " " General Hospital	62
" " " Hope Lodge	2
" " " 42, Park Hill	40
" " " H.M. Prison	5
" " " Queen Elizabeth Hospital	420
" " " Sorrento Maternity Home	1,989
" " " Heathfield Road Maternity Home	1,079
" " " Erdington Maternity Home	674
" " " Lordswood Maternity Home	909
" " " Maternity Hospital	1,956
" " " Women's Hospital	2
" " " Dudley Road Hospital	2,988
" " " Selly Oak Hospital	731
" " " Little Bromwich Hospital	—
" " " St. Chad's Hospital	704
Total confinements in Institutions	13,062

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY

The new arrangements under the National Health Service made it possible for a general practitioner to be booked to undertake antenatal and postnatal care. It is too early to arrive at any conclusion as to the effects of this new provision. In the meantime, the following table is of interest :—

Before 5th July (on which date the National Health Service Act, 1946, came into operation) :

1. (a) Percentage of domiciliary cases where midwife booked and solely responsible for confinement .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	82
(b) Percentage of these cases where medical aid sought for delivery	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
2. Percentage of cases where general practitioner booked for confinement	.....	.....	.....	.....	18

After 5th July :

1. (a) Percentage of domiciliary cases where midwife booked and solely responsible for confinement .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	54
(b) Percentage of these cases where medical aid sought for delivery	.....	.....	.....	.....	36
2. (a) Percentage of cases where general practitioner undertook antenatal and postnatal care only .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22
(b) Percentage of these cases where medical aid sought for delivery	.....	.....	.....	.....	27
3. Percentage of cases where general practitioner booked for confinements	.....	.....	.....	.....	14

At the end of 1948, 123 City midwives were in practice, 16 midwives employed as maternity nurses and 52 independent midwives were in practice (including 11 who resided outside the City). Nine ambulance midwives were also employed.

Of the 10,005 domiciliary confinements, 9,501 were delivered by City midwives and 362 by private midwives. In addition, there were 142 confinements attended in patients' homes or in ambulances by the ambulance midwives.

City Midwives

During the year City midwives attended 9,501 cases acting as maternity nurses in 1,631 of these cases. The approximate average number of deliveries per month, per midwife, was 6.25 or 77 cases per year. This makes no allowance for 226 weeks lost by sick leave. There have been 15 appointments and 21 resignations during the year.

Supervision of Midwives

During the year 1948, 421 midwives notified their intention to practise in the City. Of these, 11 resided outside the City, and, therefore, did not come under routine inspection. Of these 421 midwives, 209 were institutional. Forty-seven midwives ceased to practise during the year.

Midwives sent for medical help in 3,533 cases; for the mother in 2,391 instances and for the child in 1,142.

Reasons for sending for medical help

MOTHERS		CHILDREN	
Delayed labour	468	Ophthalmia	813
Laceration of perineum	995	Prematurity	42
Haemorrhage	150	Convulsions	6
Adherent placenta	64	Jaundice	40
Abnormal presentation	103	Skin eruption	31
Abortion or miscarriage	35	Deformity	41
Rise of temperature	136	Other causes	169
Other causes	440		
	<hr/>		
	2,391		1,142
	<hr/>		<hr/>

Midwives were temporarily suspended for the following reasons :—

Tonsillitis	7	Septic conditions	2
Accidents	6	Influenza	2
Skin conditions	3	Bronchitis	1
Colds	3	Other causes	25

The following visits were paid during the year by the Supervisors of Midwives :—

Routine visits to midwives	194
Special visits to midwives	440
Visits to stillbirths	33
Visits after neo-natal deaths	33
Nursings and deliveries supervised	140
Visits to ophthalmia neonatorum cases	1,252
Visits to puerperal sepsis cases	116
Other visits	772
Unsuccessful visits	628
Number of interviews with midwives	1,256
Interviews <i>re</i> hospital bookings	7,004
Interviews, <i>re</i> dockets for sheets	6,462

Emergency Maternity Service

This is a service whereby an obstetric consultant and/or a resident doctor and nurse attend the patient in her own home at the request of the general practitioner in attendance. They are conveyed by ambulance and carry special equipment, including blood transfusion equipment, for the treatment of obstetric shock or haemorrhage.

This service is staffed by personnel from Birmingham Maternity Hospital.

The service was used in 90 cases during the year. Thirty-five of these were patients outside the City of Birmingham.

The reasons for being summoned to the City of Birmingham cases (55) are classified below. Four of these cases were transferred to hospital and blood transfusion was given in forty-four instances.

From the 5th July, 1948, this service became the responsibility of the Teaching Hospital Group.

	1/1/48 to 4/7/48	5/7/48 to 31/12/48	Total
Post partum haemorrhage and placenta retained	14	18	32
Post partum haemorrhage	10	4	14
Haemorrhage and abortion	—	2	2
Retained placenta	—	2	2
Retained placenta and inversion of uterus	1	1	2
Complicated breech delivery	1	1	2
Severe obstetric shock	1	—	1
	27	28	55

Gas and Air Analgesia

The number of City midwives with their gas and air certificate is now 120 and 61 sets of apparatus are available. During 1948, 884 patients received gas and air anaesthetic by a City midwife in the domiciliary service. This is an increase of 560 cases when compared with 1947.

Premature Baby Equipment

There are 51 premature baby outfits on the district at midwives' houses. The full equipment has been loaned out to patients in 17 instances, and part equipment has been loaned out in 27 instances.

District Training

During the year 1948, 19 teacher midwives were taking pupils on the district. Ten midwives were approved as teachers during the year and 5 teachers resigned.

	Pupils trained for the Central Midwives' Board		Obtained
	Certificate Part I	Part II	Gas and Air Certificate
Selly Oak Hospital	23	—	—
Dudley Road Hospital	36	—	—
Maternity Hospital	75	—	—
Sorrento	—	15	3
Heathfield Road	48	68	68
Lordswood	—	36	21
Marston Green	—	24	7

INSTITUTIONAL MIDWIFERY

On the 5th July, 1948, the City Council ceased to have any responsibility for institutional midwifery. Many cases, however, who were booked for delivery in hospital continued to attend the local authority antenatal clinics for their intermediate examinations. Arrangements were made that cases requesting admission for social reasons should apply, in the first instance, to the local health authority who would assess the relative need in relation to the number of beds available. On the whole the transition period has gone fairly smoothly, the main difficulty being the shortage of beds, a condition of affairs rendered more acute by an increased demand from people outside the City for beds in Birmingham hospitals.

Marston Green huttet hospital was opened on September 1st, only 40 beds being available in the first instance. The temporary accommodation at Highcroft Hall, Erdington, was closed when the Marston Green institution opened.

Tuberculous Cases

The antenatal care of tuberculous pregnant women in a sanatorium during their pregnancy was undertaken by the Senior Medical Officer in charge of Sorrento Maternity Home. Fourteen patients were under supervision during the year.

Notification of Mastitis

The notifications of mastitis have shown a considerable diminution, as the following table shows :—

Institution	1947		1948	
	No. births notified	No. cases Mastitis	No. births notified	No. cases Mastitis
Birmingham Maternity Hospital	1,958	9	1,956	3
Erdington Maternity Home	285	3	674	2
Lordswood Maternity Home	827	5	909	3
Sorrento Maternity Home	1,844	5	1,989	9
Selly Oak Hospital	944	6	731	0
Queen Elizabeth Hospital	566	2	420	1
Heathfield Maternity Home	1,010	5	1,079	4
Dudley Road Hospital	3,086	9	2,988	1
Private Nursing Homes	1,863	6	1,501	3
Domiciliary	11,472	58	10,005	20
	23,855	108	22,252	46

Inspection and Registration of Nursing Homes and Nurses' Agencies

Nursing Homes

At the end of 1948, there were 35 nursing homes on the register. One new home for six chronic medical cases opened during the year. One maternity home changed ownership. One medical home increased its accommodation from eighteen to twenty beds and one was decreased by three beds. Four homes closed during the year, two for maternity cases each with eight beds and two for chronic medical cases of thirteen and five beds respectively.

The total number of visits paid to nursing homes during the year 1948 was 113 (105 by medical officers and 8 by supervisors of midwives).

Total number of beds in homes	396
No. of homes which are equipped for surgical work	4
No. of homes which take chronic or senile cases only	15
No. of homes which take maternity cases only	16*
No. of homes which keep some beds for maternity cases	2†

* With 110 beds.

† With 6 beds.

Nursing Agencies

In accordance with the Nurses' Act of 1943 and the Nurses' Agency Regulations, 1945, applications were received from five Agencies and renewals of licences were granted in each case. Fourteen visits of inspection were paid.

HEALTH VISITORS' TRAINING COURSE, 1948-49

The twenty-sixth course of training for the Health Visitors' Certificate commenced in September.

The response to the advertisement for Birmingham assisted students again showed an increase. One hundred and seventy-two completed applications were received and twenty-five students were appointed by the Health Department. Two students were sent for training by the Birmingham Education Department.

Local authorities in the Midland Region participating in the training scheme received twenty-nine completed applications and twenty-three students were selected for training.

One regional candidate withdrew during the training; she had recently returned from the Services and did not settle in the new work.

Birmingham Health Department students	25
Regional students	23
Other departments	2
	—
	50 students appointed
Students withdrawn	1
	—
	49 students

Inspectors from the Ministry of Health visited the Training Centre during the session 1947-48. They made the suggestion that practical cookery classes should be included in the students' training. In conjunction with the Domestic Science Department of the Education Department, practical cookery classes have now been arranged and are proving very helpful.

In the past, students have gained practical experience in Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Staffordshire and this year it has been possible to include Shropshire. This widening of the Health Visitors' training has been greatly appreciated, and will be most helpful to the students in their future work.

Forty-nine students from the 1947-48 course entered for the examination in April, 1948. Forty-seven were successful. Both the students who failed have now successfully passed the examination.

HEALTH VISITING SERVICE

The visited child population under the age of five years on the records at the end of the year showed an increase of 967 over the previous year.

Year	No. of visited children under 5 years	No. of Health Visitors engaged solely on Maternity and Child Welfare Work	Case Load per Health Visitor
December 31st, 1937	66,538	90	739
" 1938	69,698	95	734
" 1939	70,289	95	740
" 1940	67,826	96	706
" 1941	65,259	97	673
" 1942	70,008	97	722
" 1943	75,310	98	768
" 1944	82,839	99	837
" 1945	86,935	98	887
" 1946	93,572	103	908
" 1947	98,223	111	885
" 1948	99,190	111	894
Total number of routine visits paid to children under 5 years			272,291
Total number of special visits paid to children under 5 years			13,784
Total number of visits to expectant mothers			19,234
Total number of visits post-natally following ophthalmia, still-births and neo-natal deaths			1,852
Total number of visits to scabies, home helps and neglect cases			2,766
Total number of fruitless calls			71,556

Since 1937 the visited child population under 5 years of age has increased by 49 per cent., whereas the number of health visitors has only increased by 23 per cent. This has meant a heavy and continuing strain on these officers which is causing anxiety, especially in view of the increased duties which they are required to undertake under the provisions of the National Health Service Act.

The normal scheme of home visiting should be as follows :—

Under 12 months	—	13 visits a year
1—2 years	—	4 visits a year
2—5 years	—	2 visits a year

Were this scheme of visiting to be applied to the present child population under 5 years, then 466,997 routine visits would be required yearly, whereas, in fact, in 1948 only 272,291 routine visits were paid. It has, therefore, been necessary to introduce a revised scheme of visiting as follows :—

1st visit as soon after the 14th day as possible.

14 days to 1 year :	Centre attenders	.....	.....	6 visits
	Non-centre attenders	.....	.....	12 visits
1—2 years	Centre attenders	.....	.....	3 visits
	Non-centre attenders	.....	.....	4 visits

2—5 years : one visit yearly, irrespective of attendance at Centre.

Of the total visited child population of 99,190 who were under 5 years on the 31st December, 1948, the number who attended the Centre during the year was 45,097 or 45.5 per cent. This attendance was not, however, evenly distributed throughout the 5-year period as the following table shows :—

<i>Age of child</i>	<i>Total visited children</i>	<i>Total individual children who attended centre</i>	<i>Percentage of visited group</i>
Under 1 year	.... 20,409	15,634	76.6
1—2 years	.... 22,059	14,798	67.1
2—3 years	.... 20,308	6,893	33.9
3—4 years	.... 17,089	4,142	24.2
4—5 years	.... 19,325	3,630	18.8

It is interesting to examine, too, the number of attendances made by individual children. This is brought out in the following table :—

	<i>0—1 year</i>	<i>1—2 years</i>	<i>2—5 years</i>
	<i>% of Number visited group</i>	<i>% of Number visited group</i>	<i>% of Number visited group</i>
<i>Children who made</i>			
1 attendance	2,390	11.7	2,803
2 attendances	1,743	8.5	1,661
3—4 attendances	3,243	15.9	3,067
6—11 attendances	4,279	21.0	3,686
12 and over attendances	3,979	19.5	3,581
TOTAL	15,634	76.6	14,798
			67.1
			14,665
			25.9

Movement of Staff

The number of health visitors on the staff at the end of the year, including the administrative staff, was 128.

During the year, 31 health visitors left the staff for the following reasons :—

By retirement	—	—	1
By marriage	—	—	3
By transfer to other local authorities :			
(a) for domestic reasons	—	—	10
(b) for other reasons	—	—	3
(c) by promotion	—	—	2
By transfer to district nursing or combined work with other local authorities	—	—	3
By transfer to health visiting work with S.A.A.F.A., in Germany	—	—	1
By transfer to Birmingham T.B. Department	—	—	1
By transfer to School Medical Department	—	—	1
By return to hospital work	—	—	1
To course of training for Children's Visitors	—	—	2
By transfer to Children's Department	—	—	1
To U.S.A. (domestic reasons)	—	—	1
By breach of contract	—	—	1
			31
			—

Twenty-five newly qualified health visitors were retained for the second year of contract. In addition, one new appointment was made and Miss Beddows and Miss Watts returned to the department from work abroad with S.A.A.F.A. Miss Anderson also rejoined the staff following the successful completion of the course of training as a psychiatric social worker. Two married health visitors who live in Birmingham were appointed on a part-time basis. Miss Westbury, who had been seconded temporarily to the work of the department dealing with unmarried mothers, was transferred back to Weoley Castle as Superintendent.

The number of health visitors engaged solely on maternity and child welfare duties at welfare centres on January 1st, 1948, was 111, and, in spite of the influx of 25 newly qualified health visitors following training, this number remained the same on December 31st, 1948.

Sickness

The number of days lost during the year has been slightly less than for 1947. The total number of days lost throughout the year was 1,852, making an average of 15·4 days per health visitor, including head office staff.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

The number of centres provided and maintained by the Council is 32.

Antenatal Clinics

The number of antenatal clinics held weekly at child welfare centres was 84, with an average attendance of 19.3. The number of individual women attending was 17,283, a decrease of 3,388 on the figure for 1947, and the total attendances decreased by 11,567.

		1947	1948	Increase or Decrease
Number of ante-natal clinics held	....	4,586	4,379*	—207
New mothers booked during 1948	....	15,768	13,290	—2,478
Total individual women attending	....	20,671	17,283	—3,388
Total ante-natal attendances	....	96,090	84,523	—11,567

* Including 586 midwives' sessions.

Antenatal clinics were also held at the institutions which, up to July 5th, were the City Maternity Homes, and at the Maternity Hospital and Dudley Road and Selly Oak Hospitals, to any of which cases could be referred for consultation.

Blood Tests

Samples of blood are taken from expectant mothers as part of the routine examination of all patients attending City antenatal clinics, including antenatal clinics attached to the former City Maternity Homes, now administered by the Regional Hospital Board. These samples of blood are tested by Wassermann and Kahn reaction for acquired or congenital syphilis at the City Laboratory and for the Rhesus factor by the Ministry of Health Blood Transfusion Service. These are of the greatest importance in preserving the good health of mothers and babies and in reducing incidence of miscarriage and stillbirth. Where the mother is syphilitic it enables her to start antisyphilitic treatment early in her pregnancy and to produce a healthy child free from syphilis. The following table shows the number of cases of syphilis diagnosed in antenatal patients compared with the total number of cases of syphilis in both sexes attending Venereal Disease Clinics in the City for the first time.

It is shown that the greatest number of cases occurred in 1943, and since that year there has been a decrease in the incidence, except in the year 1946.

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of new cases of syphilis attending clinics</i>	<i>No. of specimens from expectant mothers</i>	<i>Positive diagnostic reactions</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>
1939	330	9,365	71	0.76
1940	318	9,295	79	0.85
1941	343	10,555	85	0.81
1942	515	12,726	114	0.90
1943	685	13,973	130	0.93
1944	604	14,321	113	0.79
1945	567	13,832	124	0.90
1946	835	17,440	131	0.75
1947	608	16,956	91	0.54
1948	602	15,215	73	0.48
TOTAL	5,407	133,678	1,011	0.76

The decreased incidence of syphilis among expectant mothers, as compared with the war years, is accompanied by a substantial decrease in the number of cases of congenital syphilis under treatment at clinics in the City, as the following table indicates :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cases of congenital syphilis attending for treatment</i>
1944	66
1945	68
1946	48
1947	41
1948	45

Approximately 26,000 samples of blood were taken during 1948 from women attending Birmingham antenatal clinics, maternity hospitals, municipal hospitals and teaching hospitals, and were examined for the Rhesus factor by the National Transfusion Service. This number includes primigravidae and women not pregnant at the time of taking the sample. Of this number of 26,000, rather less than 5,000 were found to be rhesus negative, and of these 115 were found to be immunised against the rhesus factor. This figure includes all patients with rhesus antibodies in their serum discovered in 1948, but not patients who might have been delivered in 1948 and whose blood was examined in 1947.

It is interesting to discover that this large number of women have antibodies in their blood, but it is still more important to prevent these antibodies developing, and this it is possible to do when so many patients have had their blood examined for the rhesus factor. In such patients, if an emergency blood transfusion is required, it is possible to choose the appropriate blood to use for this purpose and thus prevent immunisation developing. The large testing made it possible for rhesus negative blood to be given in the very great majority to rhesus negative patients only, whereas in the past the great majority of emergency transfusions had to be done with rhesus negative blood to prevent immunisation in a possible rhesus negative patient. Thus great saving in rhesus negative blood, with increased safety of transfusion treatment, could be achieved.

In May, 1948, arrangements were made for the collection and distribution of specimen tubes by a motor van. This arrangement was of great assistance to the staff at the centres.

Mass Radiography of Pregnant Women

The scheme for mass radiography of expectant mothers who were attending City antenatal clinics was commenced on the 1st January, 1948. All patients attending for the first time at a centre were given an appointment to have a miniature X-ray plan taken at the Mass Radiography Centre. If an abnormality was found in the miniature film, patients were given a further appointment for a larger film to be taken and, if necessary, an appointment for a clinical examination.

In 1948, 11,591 expectant mothers were invited to attend the Mass Radiography Centre and, of this number, 7,734 (66.7%), attended and had a miniature X-ray film taken. 324 (4.2%) showed an abnormality and were asked to have a larger X-ray film taken. The following table shows the analysis of these films :—

Active tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Inactive tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	91
Acquired cardio-vascular lesions	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Other abnormal condition of lungs	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	29
Normal	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	156
Failed to complete examination	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	29
								324
								—

Postnatal Clinics

The total number of primary postnatal examinations and re-examinations at postnatal and antenatal clinics was 5,099, a decrease of 81 on the figure for 1947.

The following table shows the result of these examinations :—

Number of postnatal cases examined at clinics	.....	.....	5,099
Number of cases showing no abnormality	.....	.....	2,021
Number of cases showing abnormality	.....	.....	3,078
Percentage of cases showing abnormality	.....	.....	60·4

Conditions found :

Breasts—Mastitis	.....	.....	42
Genital tract :			
Subinvolution	.....	.....	175
Retroversion	.....	.....	420
Deeply torn cervix	.....	.....	223
Parametritis	.....	.....	47
Cystocele, rectocele or prolapse (repair)	.....	.....	440
Poor perineum (result of no repair or of ineffective)	.....	.....	171
Fistula (urinary or faecal)	.....	.....	22
Vaginal discharge	.....	.....	631
Persistent loss	.....	.....	106
Urinary tract :			
Albumin present	.....	.....	76
Pus present	.....	.....	2
Sugar present	.....	.....	7
Precipitancy of micturition	.....	.....	24
White leg	.....	.....	22
General conditions :			
Raised blood pressure	.....	.....	95
Debility	.....	.....	541
Anaemia (a) following haemorrhage	.....	.....	103
(b) of pregnancy	.....	.....	163
(c) nutritional	.....	.....	510
Backache	.....	.....	511
Abdominal muscles (normal, lax, divarication of recti)	.....	.....	798
Other conditions	.....	.....	524

More than one abnormality may be found in the same mother.

At postnatal clinics held at welfare centres the mother is also given the opportunity of bringing her young infant for examination and advice at the same time as she receives her own examination. The mother can bring her infant to this clinic until it is three months old. The following are the attendances at these postnatal clinics :—

	1947	1948
Number of postnatal clinics held	1,521	1,532*

Mothers :

No. of primary examinations .....	.....	.....	4,922	4,830
No. of re-examinations.....	.....	.....	258	269
Total examinations .....	.....	.....	5,180	5,099
Average number of examinations per consultation (Dr. present) .....	.....	.....	3.4	3.3

Infants :

No. of new infants attending .....	.....	.....	12,542	11,327
Total number of infant attendances .....	.....	.....	64,671	64,672
Total examinations by doctor.....	.....	.....	23,883	24,039
Average attendance of infants per consultation .....	.....	.....	42.5	42.2
Average number of infants seen by doctor per consultation .....	.....	.....	15.7	15.7

(*No doctor attended at 3 of these clinics).

In addition, many postnatal examinations are conducted at the maternity homes and hospitals and by private doctors and in nursing homes.

Attendance of Children at Child Welfare Centres

Total number of attendances at child welfare centres during 1948, including those in attendance at postnatal clinics :—

- (1) By children under 1 year of age | | | | 213,847 |
- (2) By children between 1—5 years of age | | | | 63,374 |

Total number of children who attended a centre for the first time and who, at the time of their first attendance, were :—

- (1) Under 1 year of age | | | | 18,050 |
- (2) Between 1—5 years of age | | | | 3,113 |

Total number of individual children who attended during the year and who on December 31st, 1948 :—

		1948	1947	Increase or decrease
(1) Were under 1 year of age .....	.....	15,634	18,086	— 2,452
(2) Were between 1—5 years of age .....	.....	29,463	26,105	+ 3,358
(3) Had attained 5th year of age .....	.....	1,999	1,586	+ 413
Total individual children attending .....	.....	47,096	45,777	+ 1,319
 Total attendances by infants at post-natal clinics .....	.....	64,672	64,671	+1
Total attendances made at children's consultation clinics .....	.....	186,028	199,804	—13,766
Total attendances made at pre-school medical inspections .....	.....	26,521	22,496	+4,025
 Total children's attendances .....	.....	277,221	286,971	—9,750

Children's Clinics

Children of any age up to five years may attend these clinics, though mothers with babies under 3 months are encouraged to attend the post-natal clinics, and children between the ages of 18 months and 5 years to attend the pre-school inspection clinics.

<i>Number of clinics held</i>		1948	1947	<i>Increase or Decrease</i>
With doctor attending	....	3,400	3,318	+82
Without doctor attending	....	98	255	-157
Total	....	3,498	3,573	-75
<hr/>				
New children attending	....	8,114	9,958	-1,844
Total attendances	....	186,026	199,804	-13,778
Average attendance per clinic	....	53.2	55.9	-2.7
Total seen by doctor	....	62,406	65,015	-2,609
Average seen by doctor per clinic	....	18.4	19.5	-1.1

Medical Inspection of Pre-School Children

These clinics are held for the medical inspection of pre-school children between 18 months and 5 years of age. Quarterly appointments are given and the mother is encouraged to keep these regularly. If more frequent supervision is considered desirable, the mother is advised to bring the child in the interim to the ordinary consultation.

The number of pre-school clinics held during the year was 1,639, an increase of 170 over 1947; the average attendance per clinic was 16, the same as for 1947, and the total number of attendances showed an increase of 4,025 over the figure for the previous year. The number of children who attended the pre-school clinic for the first time also showed an increase of 83% when compared with 1947.

The following table gives an analysis of the attendances and the conditions found :—

Section A.

	1948
Number of clinics	1,639
Total attendances	26,521
Number of individual children	12,494
Number of children attending pre-school clinic for the first time	7,177

Section B.

Environmental conditions

Clothing unsuitable or inadequate	....	....	....	111
Rest : bedtime later than 7 p.m.	....	....	....	3,546
No day-time rest	....	....	....	6,677

Section C.

Defects :

<i>Eyes—Squint</i>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	337
Inflammatory conditions	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	113
Other eye conditions	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	58
<i>Skin—Eczema</i>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	216
Purulent conditions	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	86
<i>Ear, nose and throat :</i>						
Otorrhoea	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	233
Deafness	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	84
Enlarged or diseased tonsils and/or adenoids	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,457
Nasal obstruction and/or mouth breathing	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	372
<i>Teeth :</i>						
Carious or defective	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,863
<i>Glands :</i>						
Enlarged	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,181
<i>Heart :</i>						
Congenital diseases	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	109
Rheumatic conditions	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	41
<i>Anaemia</i>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	109
<i>Lungs</i>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	167
<i>Rickets :</i>						
Active	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	121
Rachitic deformities	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,092
Other deformities	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,135
<i>Mentality (backward)</i>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100
<i>Speech (backward or defective)</i>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	253
<i>Other defects</i>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,193

More than one defect may occur in the same child.

Dental Treatment

	<i>Selly Oak</i>	<i>Stratford Road</i>	<i>Lancaster Street</i>	<i>Carnegie Institute</i>	<i>Total</i>
New mothers booked at welfare centres during 1948	.....	.....	.....	.....	13,290
Numbers inspected by dental surgeon	.....	.....	.....	.....	At present all new mothers are inspected by the Medical Officer
Numbers having dental treatment	268	950	771	985	2,974
Total number of individual children between 2—5 years who attended welfare centres during 1948	.....	.....	.....	.....	16,664
Total number of children having dental treatment	167	637	488	689	1,981

Number of extraction clinics	26	108	79	96	309
Number of denture clinics	—	95	51	131	277
Number of conservation clinics	—	—	—	—	—
Total number of clinics	26	203	130	227	586
Total attendances :					
Mothers	273	2,485	1,855	3,214	7,827
Children	192	751	536	735	2,214
Average attendance per session					
Mothers	10.5	12.25	14.27	14.16	12.79
Children	7.5	3.75	4.1	3.24	4.65
Local anaesthetics	1	108	70	96	275
Extractions with local anaesthetics	1	161	98	139	399
General anaesthetics	421	1,363	1,022	1,368	4,174
Extractions with general anaesthetics	1,667	4,292	3,732	4,579	14,270
Mothers supplied with dentures	—	318	243	488	1,049
Number of dentures supplied	—	486	386	747	1,619
Repairs to dentures	—	77	43	108	228
Conservations in deciduous teeth	—	74	71	64	209
Conservations in permanent teeth	....	No permanent teeth are conserved at present			
Other dental operations, including scaling, gum treatments, x-rays, denture adjustments, etc.	1	49	38	69	157

The year 1948 was an eventful year with the introduction of the National Health Service. This meant that patients would no longer need to contribute towards the cost of dentures. The effect was that during the first half of the year the number of patients became progressively smaller until July 5th, after which demand for treatment increased and eventually attendances settled down to the average attendance before the introduction of the scheme.

Owing to inability to increase the number of dental officers, the Department had to confine its activities to the removal of carious and septic teeth, and to the fitting of dentures. Also it was not practicable to inspect many of the mothers' teeth, as this would have taken the dental officers' entire time, and no treatment could have been given. It was therefore left to the medical officers to inspect the new mothers.

The statistical report shows that the average attendance per session was satisfactory and the treatment given compared favourably with past years. During the year the equipment of the surgeons was improved. Two dental units were installed. If the number of dental officers could be increased, the Department is ready for a rapid expansion ; and it is felt that this is a matter of urgency.

Treatment of Ear, Nose and Throat Conditions

Ear, nose and throat consultations were held at weekly intervals by Mr. Robert Evans at Lancaster Street Welfare Centre.

Tonsil and Adenoid Consultation Clinic—1948 :

Number of children called to see consultant	1,154
Number of children requiring tonsillectomy.....	668
Number of children referred back to centre for observation	232
Number of children already on another hospital waiting list	90
Number failing to attend	164

The arrangements with the Education Committee continued whereby 9 beds per week were allotted to the Maternity and Child Welfare Department at the Handsworth School Clinic.

Tonsillectomy Clinic, Soho Hill, Handsworth :

Number of children called for operation	413
Number of operations performed	343

After the appointed day, the responsibility for treatment fell upon the Regional Hospital Board and it became necessary for the Health Committee to discontinue the very helpful arrangements which the Education Committee had made for the utilisation of places in their Soho Road School Clinic.

Cases referred from Maternity and Child Welfare Centres and examined up to the 5th July, 1948, at the Children's Hospital for the treatment of these conditions were as follows :—

Tonsils and adenoids (removal only)	23
Tonsils and adenoids (examination only)	47
Other ear, nose and throat conditions	32

Parents' Guidance Clinic

During 1948 two weekly sessions have been held, making a total of 95 consultation clinics with a total attendance of 480 or an average of 5 per session. In addition, 9 follow-up clinics were held by the psychiatric social worker, with a total attendance of 26. These clinics, which are now held weekly, are at the moment restricted to a few mothers who specially benefit from longer and more frequent interviews than can be arranged regularly with Dr. Huse, but Dr. Huse also sees the mothers at intervals. At the discretion of the psychiatric social worker, an initial interview occasionally takes place at the follow-up clinic.

110 patients were referred to the clinic for the first time during the year, of whom 92 attended.

For various reasons home visits only were made in 12 cases and 6 other parents failed to attend the clinic or co-operate further.

Home visiting is important, and the aim is to see every mother and child at home at least once, but there is no limit, except lack of time, to the number of home visits which may be paid if necessary. It is desirable to see fathers as well as mothers, and many of the fathers are most co-operative.

During the year, 17 mothers, 35 boys and 39 girls were seen at the clinic for the first time. Their difficulties are not easy to classify, as there is frequently more than one symptom. The following list classifies the cases according to the most troublesome symptom :—

CHILDREN

Temper tantrums, uncontrolled, aggressive or destructive behaviour	33
Enuresis	13
Encopresis	1
Retention of faeces	1
Timidity, night terror and fears	7
Masturbation	2
Anorexia	2
Speech difficulties	9
Backward children	6

In a number of instances the parents were over-anxious, and reassurance and support quickly led to more confident handling. Others needed more intensive treatment.

MOTHERS

17 mothers were referred for the following reasons :

Domestic tension	2
Depression	7
Anxiety state	6
Behaviour deterioration	1
Hysteria	1

Three of the mothers were admitted to the Midland Nerve Hospital for investigation and treatment.

As is to be expected, there were cases in which the emotional disturbance was aggravated by overcrowding and other uncongenial living conditions.

Clinic attendances are gratifying, particularly as many of the mothers have to bring the children long distances. The children enjoy coming to the clinic, and the large majority of the parents find it helpful. Several of the children have given toys to the clinic.

Remedial Exercises

During the year remedial exercise clinics have been held at 11 Centres with a total of 467 sessions.

Miss Hancox was appointed as a full-time physiotherapist in March, 1948, and the two part-time physiotherapists continued to give 5 sessions weekly at Maternity and Child Welfare Centres and up to July 5th, three weekly at Maternity Homes.

Number of individual children attending	784
Number of sessions held	467
Total attendances (children)	6,589
Average attendances per session	14

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Sewing Classes

Sewing classes were held at 25 centres, with a total attendance of 9,790, an increase of 607 over 1947.

These classes are staffed by arrangement with the Education Department. According to the demand, and in co-operation with the class teachers, the Heads of the individual Evening Institutes and the Centre Superintendents, the classes have been held for an extended number of weeks. Previously the long "breaks" based on the usual Evening Institute holidays had proved very unpopular with the mothers.

Visits

There has been a continual demand for facilities to be available for observing the work of the Department.

The routine programmes fixed were as follows :—

80 student midwives taking Part II Course (5 sessions each at a Centre)	400 sessions
60 child care reserve students (group visits)	8 ..
17 industrial nurses (2 sessions each).....	34 ..
78 nursery students (group visits)	6 ..
84 medical students (1 session each)	84 ..

In addition, programmes were arranged for :

24 doctors, including D.P.H. students	451 sessions
126 students taking various training courses	102 ..
26 visitors in various professions	95 ..
6 deputy nursery matrons (11 sessions each)	66 ..
36 student nurses	36 ..
	<hr/>
	1,282 ..
	<hr/>

Our visitors included representatives from the following countries : Australia, South Africa, West Africa, Chile, China, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Greece, India, Norway, New Zealand, Palestine, Siam, Toronto, Ulster, U.S.A. and Sweden.

Refresher Courses

Twenty-one health visitors attended refresher courses, each of a fortnight's duration, which were held at Liverpool, London, Oxford and Hoddesdon, Herts.

Surveys

The following surveys continued during the year :—

The dental survey under the aegis of the Medical Research Council.

The survey of 1947 births by the Department of Social Medicine, Birmingham University.

Dr. Crosse's survey on premature babies and control groups.

Early in January, 1948, a pilot survey was made in connection with a follow-up survey concerning the health of selected children who were covered by the maternity survey made in 1946 by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Population Investigation Committee and Institute of Child Health (University of London). This Department was asked to complete the questionnaire in respect of 100 children.

Applications for Admission to Children's Homes

Following the closing down of the District Relieving Offices on July 5th, arrangements were made for a health visitor to be on duty throughout the day (9.0 a.m.—5 p.m. Monday to Friday and 9.0 a.m.—12 noon on Saturday) in every welfare centre in the City for the purpose of receiving initial applications for admission to Children's Homes. This service meant a loss of 133 visiting sessions per week. Owing to the comparatively small number of applications, it was decided that from the 15th November only 8 centres need be kept available for this service, and this arrangement was still in operation at the end of the year.

Chiropody Clinic

A chiropodist was appointed and began duties on August 16th. She attends at each of eight selected centres once every four weeks to give treatment to mothers referred from Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. This work has proved very valuable, and no difficulty has been encountered in making full use of the chiropodist's time.

Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings of the health visiting staff are now held on Saturday mornings (9.0 a.m.—12 noon), at Lancaster Street Centre. The first part of the morning is devoted to free discussion and the second half to a lecture or talk of general interest. The first meeting was held in September.

Clerical Assistants

Clerical assistants are at present employed at twenty-seven centres, for a total of 143 sessions weekly.

Car Allowances

Certain health visitors who possess cars and work on out-lying areas were allowed to claim car allowances as "casual users" as from December, 1948.

Children's Visitors

From 1st December five newly appointed Children's Visitors were seconded to the Department and arrangements were made for them to work at certain selected centres until the Children's Department was set up.

School Clinic Sessions

The Education Department have continued to hold a weekly session of a minor ailment clinic at Kingstanding Child Welfare Centre.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

Number of domestic helps employed full time	97
Number of domestic helps employed part time	48
	145
Number of cases dealt with :	
Confinements	1,287
Postnatal	84
Illness of the housewife	198
Housewife called away	1
Elderly persons	85
Lung tuberculosis	8
	1,663

In several maternity cases it has been possible to extend the length of time of the Domestic Help's stay to three and, in some cases, more weeks.

Four Domestic Helps have volunteered to attend cases of tuberculosis. This number will be increased as soon as practicable.

Twelve Domestic Helps are available to sleep in, in case of necessity ; six cases have been dealt with in this way during the past year.

The arrangements made for the Home Help training continues as hitherto.

HOME NURSING SERVICE

On July 5th, 1948, under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the City Council became responsible for the provision of a Home Nursing Service. Prior to this date the nursing of patients in their own homes was carried out by a staff employed by the Birmingham District Nursing Association, the Aston Manor Nursing Institution and the Selly Park and Dad's Lane Nursing Association, but on July 5th the existing staff of eighty-eight nurses, together with eleven nurses' homes and equipment were transferred to the City Council.

Staff

There are now 10 Superintendents, 63 full-time Nurses and 18 part-time Nurses employed. These include 5 Student District Nurses in training as Queen's Nurses and 7 male Nurses. There are still a number of vacancies which it is hoped to fill as soon as staff are available.

The nurses work from 11 homes situated in the following districts :—

Summerhill Road	King's Heath
Moseley Road	Kingstanding
Aston	Selly Oak
Erdington	Washwood Heath Road
Hall Green	Yardley
Handsworth	

Training

Birmingham is a centre for the training of Queen's Nurses and has two training homes, at Summerhill Road and Moseley Road, where State registered nurses may take the six months' course to prepare them for nursing in the home.

This course consists of practical instruction and supervision by the Superintendents and their assistants. The nurses are shown how to adapt their hospital training to the altered conditions in the patients' homes.

A course of 35 lectures is arranged, which includes such subjects as public health legislation, social services, tuberculosis and the nursing of infectious diseases in the home. These lectures are given by members of the Public Health Staff and other lecturers.

An examination is held by the Queen's Institute of District Nursing at the end of each course and successful candidates are placed on the Roll of Queen's Nurses. Four nurses trained in Birmingham entered for this examination in December and were successful.

Nurses' Work

Since the 5th July, 1948, the following work has been carried out by the Home Nursing Service :—

Total cases nursed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,378
New cases	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,286
Cases on books at 5th July	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,092
Total visits paid	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	144,615

HEALTH EDUCATION

During the past year there has been continued expansion of the work in health education. While there has been no increase in the number of whole-time lecturers, the number of health visitors engaged in health education, both in and out of duty hours, has increased to 67. To encourage and equip the health visitors for this teaching, a series of discussion groups on the syllabus for school children was organised. A course on public speaking also proved helpful. Twenty health visitors attended and the class was held on six Saturday mornings for two hours.

Health Talks at Centres by Health Visitors

These have followed the usual lines and talks were given to 79,689 mothers during the year. Many health visitors have produced attractive posters and blackboard illustrations in connection with their health talks. Miss Pearson has continued her talks to groups of expectant mothers at antenatal clinics at Dudley Road, Selly Oak and Birmingham Maternity Hospitals.

Lectures Given

		1947	1948
Lectures at schools	.....	745	1,772
Lectures to youth organisations	.....	135	280
Lectures to adult groups	.....	173	386
		<hr/> 1,053	<hr/> 2,438
		<hr/>	<hr/>

Teaching in Schools

At the end of the 1946/47 school session, it was necessary to reconsider the teaching in schools with particular reference to the long courses of 40 lectures to school leavers. Children are now leaving school at the end of each term, which interferes considerably with the continuity of long courses. It was, therefore, decided to replace the long courses by shorter courses covering one term, not only for school leavers but with additional courses on elementary physiology and hygiene for the 11+ age group. Efforts towards extension of the work, as far as staffing will permit, will be directed towards this younger age group.

Other Activities

Children's Cinema Clubs. As no further suitable films have been produced, health education at the children's cinema clubs would have reached an impasse if one of the clubs had not been prepared to accept a speaker for a brief talk to the children without the showing of a health film. These talks were commenced as an experiment but have proved very successful and it is hoped to enlist the support of the other cinemas.

Youth and Adult Organisations. The work in these organisations has more than doubled in the last year. While expansion has been fairly general, there have been advances in certain interesting directions.

(1) **Westhill Training College.** At the request of Westhill Training College, the health education section of the department has made itself responsible for the teaching of health education to student teachers. The course forms part of their third year training and covers three terms. This work is regarded as of primary importance, as it will equip the teachers to carry out their part of a general health education scheme in the schools.

(2) **His Majesty's Prison, Winson Green.** The experimental courses of mothercraft to selected women prisoners were most successful and an extended course of weekly lectures covering one year to selected first and second offenders has now been completed. With the consent of the Governor, an approach is to be made to the men prisoners in the form of an experimental twelve-week course.

(3) **House Mothers and Fathers.** In response to a request from the Education Department, part of the first term's training was undertaken. This included many visits of observation and a short stay at a residential nursery.

Birmingham Accident Prevention Council

An exhibition on road safety was held in Grey's Stores, Bull Street. At the request of the Birmingham Accident Prevention Council an exhibit illustrating safety in the home for the young child was set up by the department, and was staffed by a rota of health visitors.

Library Books and Exhibition Material

With the expansion of the work and the extended panel of lecturers, there have been increased demands for literature, posters, teaching charts and exhibition material. The bulk of the posters and charts are prepared in the department.

Film Strips

A second film strip apparatus has been purchased and both are now in frequent use. There is still a shortage of suitable film strips, so the department prepared an experimental film strip in black and white which has proved so useful that a further strip in colour is in the process of preparation.

DAY AND RESIDENTIAL NURSERIES

Two important Acts became law during 1948 :—

- (1) The Children's Act, 1948, is designed to make provision for children deprived of a normal home life and to put into effect the principal recommendations of the Curtis and Clyde Committees.

Administration centrally has been vested in the Home Office, and at the periphery local authorities are required to set up a Children's Committee for the purpose of administration of the Act. The residential nurseries in Birmingham hitherto the responsibility of the Health Committee, have become the responsibility of the Children's Committee since the 5th July, 1948. The Children's Committee have asked the Health Committee to act as their agents in the administration of these nurseries for a period.

- (2) The Nurseries' and Child Minders' Regulations Act, 1948, provides for the registration of premises where children are received and of persons who for reward receive children into their homes to look after them.

Day Nurseries

Forty-eight day nurseries were under the control of the Health Committee during 1948, providing 2,191 places. Coleshill Road residential nursery became a day nursery in May, 1948, providing another twenty-six day nursery places, bringing the total number to 2,217. In December, 1948, there were 2,335 children on the nursery registers. The average daily attendance was 1,864, at the end of the year, compared with 1,564 at the beginning of the year. At the end of the year there were 5,407 on the waiting list compared with 2,885 at the beginning of the year. This large increase in the waiting list exists in spite of the fact that the places in the nurseries are reserved for the children of mothers who are doing essential work, particularly in connection with the export drive. The reduction of nursery fees from 18/- per week to 3/4 per week since the 5th July, 1948, has led to an increase of applications for admission.

The attendances in the day nurseries tend to fluctuate considerably from day to day, some of the reasons for this being as follows :—

- (1) The demand for load-shedding by the Ministry of Fuel and Power. When the factories closed down for one day a week and on Saturdays, the mothers working in these factories kept their children at home for these two days.
- (2) The staggering of holidays.
- (3) Epidemics of measles, whooping cough, chicken-pox and other illness throughout the year.

Saturday attendances at the day nurseries consistently fell below 25% of the average weekly attendances and the Health Committee decided to close the day nurseries on Saturdays. The staff now work five days a week, Monday to Friday on two alternate shifts, either 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., or 10.30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Transport of Day Nursery Children

Owing to the heavy demand for nursery places in the Balsall Heath area, and the existence of only one nursery of thirteen places for children under two years of age, arrangements were continued to transport children aged from two to five years to other nurseries on the same side of the City.

The children were collected from Hope Street Welfare Centre and from the nursery at 92, Pershore Road each morning, and returned to their respective collection stations at night. Fifteen children were transported from Hope Street Centre to Billesley Common Day Nursery and seven to the nursery at Yardley Wood. Eleven children were transported from Pershore Road Nursery to Springfield Road Nursery and five to Yardley Wood Nursery.

Central Kitchens

Two central kitchens are responsible for the cooking of mid-day dinners, which are delivered to all the day nurseries, except one. Rationed and other goods are distributed to these nurseries for breakfasts and teas. Coleshill Road Nursery has continued to cook all meals since becoming a day nursery in May, 1948.

Average number of Meals served Weekly

January 4th, 1948 to January 1st, 1949.

Bacchus Road Kitchen :

Main meals	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5,619
Breakfasts	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2,798
Teas....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4,641
Milk drinks....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	8,447
Staff hot beverages	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5,059

Selly Oak Kitchen :

Main meals	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5,878
Breakfasts	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2,797
Teas....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4,974
Milk drinks....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9,358
Staff hot beverages	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5,876

Total meals served weekly :

Main meals	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	11,497
Breakfasts	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5,595
Teas....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9,615
								26,707

Islington Row Day Nursery :

Main meals	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	171
Breakfasts	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	139
Teas....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	265
Staff hot beverages	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	240
Children's beverages	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	444

Coleshill Road Day Nursery—as from the 3rd May, 1948 :

Main meals	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	124
Breakfasts	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	39
Teas ...	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	101
Staff hot beverages	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	120
Children's beverages	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	249

Training of Nursery Students

Nursery students from nurseries under the Health Committee and from nursery schools under the Education Committee attend Garrison Lane Training Centre for lectures and demonstrations on one day a week, and attend Bournville Continuation College for further education on one day per week. In the April examination for the National Nursery Certificate, ten nursery students and six nursery school students passed the examination and two nursery school students failed the examination. Two nursery students who were unable to sit the examination in Birmingham in April, through not having attained the age of 18 years on the day of the examination, sat the examination in Manchester in May and passed. In the November examination for the National Nursery Certificate, seventeen nursery students and five nursery school students passed and three Public Health students failed.

Deputy Matrons' Refresher Course

A course of training for Deputy Matrons commenced on the 5th July and lasted three months. The course included one month at the Children's Hospital, one month at Little Bromwich Hospital, two weeks in the Public Health Department, and two weeks in the Education Department, including lectures and visits to places of interest.

The six candidates who attended the course were appointed to posts as Deputy Matrons in the day nurseries.

Supplementary Senior Child Care Reserve Course (Warden's Course) 31st May—21st June.

Increasing difficulty has been experienced in obtaining wardens for our day nurseries, and owing to the fact that no courses have been available many of our nurseries had nursery assistants acting as wardens. When the above course was held this year, fifteen of these acting wardens attended the course, but only six passed.

Senior Child Care Reserve Course, 14th April—12th May.

Fourteen Nursery assistants attended this course at Garrison Lane and all were successful in passing the examination.

Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education Inspectors' Visits.

The following nurseries, visited by Inspectors from the above Ministries with the object of deciding whether they provided suitable training for nursery students, were approved as training schools :—

- 326, Charles Road, Small Heath
- 1,328, Coventry Road, Yardley
- 2,186, Coventry Road, Sheldon
- 131, Frankley Beeches Road, Northfield
- 73, Jerry's Lane, Erdington
- 428, Tyburn Road, Erdington
- 17, Bloomsbury Street
- 76, City Road
- 362, Soho Road
- 27, Quinton Lane
- 224, Cartland Road
- 1, Springfield Road
- 461, Gospel Lane
- Billesley Common
- 57, Park Road, Sparkhill Park
- 23, Grantham Road
- 123, Selwyn Road

Some of the suggestions made to improve conditions in the training nurseries were as follows :—

- (1) **The reduction of numbers** in maycrete nurseries from 60—50 and a proportionate decrease in the numbers in some of the adapted houses.
- (2) **Structural alterations** : Provision of more lavatory accommodation, airing cupboards and storage space for toys, where necessary. Provision of changing rooms for the babies and milk rooms.
- (3) **Play Material** : Considerable augmentation of play material was recommended at all nurseries. Until 1948 the Committee had made a toy grant of 2/6 per nursery place, per year, and this was increased to 7/6 per nursery place, per year.
- (4) **Extra play space** to be made available where possible.

Mass Radiography

Three hundred and forty members of the nursery staff were X-rayed on April 15th, and no chest abnormalities were found.

Twenty-four Hour Nursery

One twenty-four hour nursery continues to function at 40, Somerset Road, Handsworth, for children of mothers who work in the Transport Department or whose hours of work do not coincide with day nursery hours. The children are resident from Monday to Saturday each week and go home for the week-ends. All meals are cooked in the nursery.

Residential Nurseries

Residential nurseries were transferred to the care of the Children's Committee on July 5th, 1948, but for the time being the Health Committee act as agents for the Children's Committee in their administration. Residential nurseries as a whole continued to find great difficulty in acquiring the necessary staff, the main reason being that the remuneration is no more attractive than in the day nurseries, in spite of the increased responsibility and longer hours on duty. Repeated advertisements for senior staff brought little response.

Another great difficulty in connection with students at residential nurseries has been that many of them have to be billeted out, as there is not enough residential accommodation in the nurseries. Only bedrooms are provided, without any attendance or meals, and in many cases the nurses are not welcomed back to their billets till about 10 p.m. Many complications arise in cases of illness.

Number of Nurses in billets at the end of 1948 :

Overbury	.....	.....	4	Flint Green	.....	.....	6
Perry Villa	.....	.....	10	Meadway	.....	.....	12
Wassell Grove	.....	.....	2				

Nurses' Hostel

As five of the residential nurseries admit children only from 0—2 years, as against only one nursery which admits children from 2—5 years, difficulty has been experienced in providing adequate toddler experience for the nurses to satisfy the conditions laid down by the National Nursery Examination Board. An offer of hostel accommodation at the District Nurses' Home, 948, Warwick Road, was gladly accepted, and five nurses have been accommodated there and go to Nursery Schools each day, the residential nurseries from which they come being too far afield to allow of such daily attendance at a Nursery School.

Admission to Residential Nurseries

It has been increasingly difficult to satisfy the demand for the admission of children from 0—2 years to the residential nurseries. The Education Department (acting since July 5th, 1948 on behalf of the Children's Committee), have been unable to arrange for the transfer of children reaching the age of 2 years to the Cottage Homes, owing to overcrowding there. At the end of 1948 there were 50 children over two years of age still in nurseries.

Block System of Training for Students in Residential Nurseries

It has been found quite impracticable to release the student nurses from residential nurseries to attend a course of training like that for the student nurses in day nurseries. This has been due to the fact that nurses had to undertake night duty, with consequent absence from lectures. In addition, all nurses had to spend one day at Garrison Lane training centre for lectures and one day at Bournville Continuation College for further education each week, while they had the ordinary off-duty time of 1½ days weekly. This frequent absence from the nursery tended to make the nurses disinterested in their work and children, and the children had not the opportunity to get used to the nurse.

Arrangements were made to try the block system of training whereby the student nurses would be released from their training nurseries for two periods of three months, the first period following nine months' practical experience with the 0—2 year old groups and the second period following nine months' practical experience with the 2—5 year old groups. Vocational lectures, demonstrations and further education lectures to cover the whole syllabus for the National Nursery Examination Board were to be given in the two three-monthly periods.

Owing to many difficulties encountered in the preparation of such a scheme, it was not possible to start this experiment till the beginning of 1949.

House Mothers' Course

This course was run by the Education Committee on behalf of the Home Office. Arrangements were made for facilities to be given at Hawthorne House, Pype Hayes, Wassell Grove and Somerset Road Nurseries for the training of the pupils attending this course. The pupils were accommodated for consecutive six-day periods.

Wassell Grove Nursery. Number of places, 52. Children 0—5 years.

The total number of children admitted to this nursery during 1948 was 80, and 78 children were discharged during the year. Fifteen children have been transferred to hospitals for various reasons. At the end of the year, 31 children had been admitted through the Welfare Department and 18 through the Maternity and Child Welfare Department, the latter comprising 7 children of transport workers, 7 children of special domestic workers, 3 contacts of cases of tuberculosis, and 1 child who had been abandoned.

Two nurses sat the examination for the National Nursery Certificate and both passed.

Gas lighting has been replaced throughout the nursery by electricity, and a new water pump has been installed.

Oaklands, Droitwich. Number of places, 50. Children 0—5 years.

Sixty-five children have been admitted during the year and 67 have been discharged. Seven children have been admitted to hospitals for various reasons.

Four nurses successfully passed the examination for the National Nursery Certificate, and one nurse failed to satisfy the examiners. The nursery has been completely re-decorated throughout, and a new laundry has been built on the site of the old one.

A house was bought and adapted to make an excellent nurses' home—accommodating 13 nurses and a warden. Owing to restricted water supply the home only opened with a warden and two nurses on the 26th April, 1948. The remaining nurses were admitted on the 1st August, 1948.

Red House Nursery, Overbury. Number of places, 30. Children 0—2 years.

Thirty-five children have been admitted during 1948, and 32 children have been discharged. Six children have been transferred to hospital for various reasons. There has been no epidemic during the year and the children's health has been extremely good.

Flint Green Nursery. Number of places, 25. Children 0—2 years.

Seventy children have been admitted during 1948, and 84 have been discharged. Fourteen children have been transferred to hospitals for various reasons, but the health of the children has been good on the whole.

One student who sat the examination for the National Nursery Certificate passed.

Pype Hayes Nursery. Number of places, 42. Children 0—2 years.

One hundred and seventy-three children have been admitted to this nursery during the year, and 172 discharged. Thirty-five children have been admitted to hospital.

Two nurses passed the examination for the National Nursery Certificate.

146, Coleshill Road Nursery

This nursery was a residential nursery for twenty-two children till the 3rd May, 1948, when it became a day nursery. Fourteen children had been admitted and 36 discharged. Five had been transferred to hospital.

Perry Villa Nursery. Number of places, 34. Children 0—2 years.

The total number of children admitted during 1948 was 140, and there were 153 discharged. Forty-one children were admitted to hospitals for various reasons.

Meadway Nursery. Number of places, 30. Children 2—5 years.

This home is run specifically as a short stay residential nursery for the toddler age group, and 162 children were admitted during the year and 160 were discharged. Twenty-four children were admitted to hospitals for varying reasons.

Two nurses passed the examination for the National Nursery Certificate in November.

Hawthorne House Nursery. Number of places, 16. Children 0—2 years.

This nursery opened on the 26th April, 1948, with accommodation for 16 children. The reason for the restricted number was that, pending enlargement, the drainage system was inadequate for any large number. The extension of the drainage system is in progress. There were 41 admissions this year and 24 discharges. Four children have been transferred to hospital for varying reasons, but on the whole the children's health has been good.

As this nursery has not been approved for the training of nursery students, great difficulty has been experienced in finding the necessary staff.

Hawthorn Park

This large house was purchased as a nurses' home. There is accommodation for 23 nursing staff, including the warden. Some of the beds have been used for student nurses having their nursery school experience, and 4 beds were reserved for nurses taking their Block System of Training early in 1949.

As beds allow, staff belonging to the Somerset Road 24-hour nursery have also been accommodated here. Several relays of candidates taking the House Mothers' Course were also accommodated here while undergoing training at Hawthorne House and Somerset Road nurseries.

VOLUNTARY HOMES AND RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

These homes admit children for care and maintenance apart from their parents.

St. Philip's Catholic Home. Number of places, 40. Boys 5—16 years.

Ten new children were admitted to the home during 1948, the total capacity being 40.

Nazareth House, Rednal. Number of places, 120. Girls 2—16 years.

There were 34 children admitted during 1948, 26 being under 9 years of age. There were 118 children in residence at the end of the year, 66 being under 9 years of age.

Middlemore Emigration Home. Number of places, 80. Approximately 50 boys and 30 girls 2—14 years.

One hundred and fifty-three children were admitted during 1948, 102 of these being under 9 years. Forty-nine children were in residence at the end of the year, 40 of these being under 9 years. Eighty-two children emigrated to Australia during 1948.

Maryvale Convent Nursery. Number of places, 60. Children 2—5 years.

Forty-six children were admitted during 1948. The total number of children in residence at the end of the year was 60.

Sir Josiah Mason's Orphanage. Number of places, 150. Children 5—16 years.

Twenty-three children were admitted during 1948, 15 of whom were under 9 years on admission. One hundred and thirty-five children were resident at the end of the year, of whom 38 were under 9 years of age.

Church of England Children's Society. 2 Homes.

- (1) **Handsworth Toddler Nursery.** Number of places, 23.
Children 2—5 years.

Fifteen children were admitted during 1948. Twenty-one were in residence at the end of the year.

(2) Boys' Home, Sycamore House, Moseley

There were no new admissions during 1948, and only 4 boys over 10 years were in residence at the end of the year. The home is in process of re-adaptation.

The Convent of Our Lady of Compassion School closed down at the end of the summer term. There were eight boarders, one of whom was under nine years of age.

Convent of the Holy Child Jesus

Forty children have been admitted to the school during 1948, three resident, 37 non-resident. There were forty-six children in residence at the end of this year, eight being under nine years.

Private Children's Hotel

This hotel opened in May, 1947, in Hall Green, with accommodation for 4 children, plus the proprietor's 2 children. Later, in September, 1947, it was transferred to Moseley, where permission was given to take 8 children, plus the proprietor's 2 children. For private reasons the hotel closed down on August 28th, 1948.

CARE OF THE UNMARRIED MOTHER

During the year there was a decrease in the number of cases of illegitimate pregnancy dealt with by this department to 966, compared with 1,110 last year. Of these cases, 721 were unmarried mothers and 245 married women. Amongst the 721 cases, 582 were first pregnancies and 139 were multiple cases. The number of illegitimate children born to married women was a little less than in the previous year.

<i>Dealt with at :</i>		<i>First cases</i>	<i>Multiple cases</i>	<i>Married women</i>
Hope Lodge	....	50	—	—
Hostel	....	6	2	—
Lyncroft House	....	13	7	—
Woodville	....	17	—	—
Francis Way	....	15	—	—
Park Hill	....	16	1	—
Beechcroft	....	15	2	—
Birmingham Infirmary	....	8	18	8
Homes out of City	....	10	4	—
Own home except for confinement	....	365	39	167
Own home entirely	....	29	45	56
Returned to Ireland	....	20	15	—
Left City before confinement	....	10	6	11
Born out of City	....	8	—	3
 Grand Total	....	582	 139	 245
		—	—	—

43 cases — Mothers and babies still in the Homes	....	....	4·4%
27 cases — Babies have died and stillbirths	....	....	2·8%
191 cases — Babies have been adopted	....	....	19·8%
17 cases — Babies are with foster mothers	....	....	1·8%
60 cases — Mothers have married babies' fathers	....	....	6·2%
62 cases — Mothers and babies have left the City	....	....	6·4%
33 cases — Babies are in Homes without the mother	....	....	3·4%
533 cases — Mothers at home with their babies	....	....	55·2%

966

Home visits paid <i>re</i> unmarried mothers	....	....	1,201
Special visits paid <i>re</i> unmarried mothers	....	....	131
Cases visited in hospitals	....	....	408
Homes inspected <i>re</i> suitable lodgings with babies	....	....	3
Special visits paid <i>re</i> V.D. cases, etc.	....	....	11
Office interviews, applications	....	....	827
Office interviews, other than applications	....	....	4,057
V.D. Office interviews	....	....	27

Girls under age of consent :

14 years old	....	....	—
15 years old	....	....	2
16 years old	....	....	12
			14

Summary of the 139 multiple cases dealt with in 1948 (excluding married women) :—

77 have other children in their care (28 of these have more than one child).

12 first child dead.

10 first child in home (resident nursery).

21 first child adopted.

5 first child adopted by grandparents.

14 care of relatives, apart from mother.

44 of these cases living with putative father.

Of these 139 cases, 69 were dealt with previously by this department.

Year	Births	Dept.	Cases													
			Illegit-	dealt	im ate	with	by	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th
1948	1,154	966						827	98	33	7	—	1	—	—	—
1947	1,310	1,110						942	123	28	7	3	3	2	2	—
1946	1,529	1,324						1,185	101	25	6	2	2	2	—	1
1945	1,841	1,543						1,410	95	28	2	3	1	2	2	—
1944	1,499	1,418						1,303	79	20	9	5	—	1	1	—
1943	1,168	1,078						998	54	15	8	2	1	—	—	—

The following table gives details of the cases among married women :—

Adoptions	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	69
Living with putative father	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	70
Divorced	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	16
Husband in Forces	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
Apart from husband	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	70
Widows	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	15
													245
													—

There were 19 cases of venereal disease, and these were dealt with at the appropriate clinics.

Lodging Money Grant

The amount spent was	....	....	....	....	....	....	£19	2	0
The amount refunded	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
							Net cost	....	....

The number of girls helped	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
Average amount for each month (or £2 2 3 per case.)	....	....	....	....	....	....	£1 11 10

ADOPTIONS

First enquiries <i>re</i> adoption .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	487
Applications inspected and accepted by Public Health Department .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	291	.....
Applications inspected and rejected .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18	}	467
Applications refused—referred elsewhere or cancelled .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	158	.....
Other interviews <i>re</i> adoption .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,829
Subsequent visits <i>re</i> adoption .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,200
Attendances at Children's Courts <i>re</i> adoption .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	115
<i>Adoption Orders granted:</i>							
Total in City .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	489
Children placed in City with knowledge of Public Health Department .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	376
(a) by Public Health Department :	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Unmarried mothers—first babies under 6 months .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	102	.....
Children of a second or subsequent pregnancy .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	38	.....
Older children .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20	.....
Illegitimate children of married women .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	90	.....
Foster children adopted by foster parents .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16	.....
(b) by Adoption Society .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	37	.....
(c) by other local authorities .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18	.....
(d) by third parties :	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Notified .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....
Not notified .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	.....
(e) by direct placing :	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Unmarried mothers—first babies under 6 months .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22	}	
Other children .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32	}	54
Orders granted by Courts outside Birmingham .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15
Adoption arrangements terminated and child returned to care of parent .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Adoption arrangements terminated and child returned to Adoption Society .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Left City with adopting parents (referred to other authority) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
<i>Deaths during Probationary Period:</i>							
Inhalation asphyxia (Coroner's Inquest) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Broncho pneumonia .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

Very close co-operation is maintained between Birmingham Juvenile Court and the Public Health Department.

All children placed by the department received a full medical examination.

Total number examined	299
Unfit for adoption	6
Healthy	216
Minor defects	75
Major defects	2
Children reviewed from 1946 and 1947	56
One adopting mother examined—referred to consultant physician because of severe heart disease—unfit to adopt.	

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION

Foster mothers interviewed	409
Applications for foster mothers	182
Applications for foster children	60
Office interviews	2,326
Homes inspected and rejected	6
Homes registered	81
Foster children registered	117
Unnotified foster mothers	7
Routine visits	173
Special visits <i>re</i> foster children	584

At the end of 1948, the figures were as follows :

Foster mothers on scheme	20
Foster mothers registered under Child Life Protection Acts but not paid through Birmingham Foster Mother Scheme	152
Foster children on scheme	23
Foster children registered under Child Life Protection Acts but not paid through Birmingham Foster Mother Scheme	183

Total foster children dealt with during 1948 :

Scheme	52
Registered under Child Life Protection Acts but not paid through Birmingham Foster Mother Scheme	190
Illegitimate : Scheme	49
Registered under Child Life Protection Acts but not paid through Birmingham Foster Mother Scheme	103
Legitimate : Scheme	3
Registered under Child Life Protection Acts but not paid through Birmingham Foster Mother Scheme	87

Foster children on Scheme who attained the age of 5 years 1

Foster children on scheme who removed :

Returned to parent .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19
Adopted by foster parents .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Removals to other homes for adoption .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Became registered under Child Life Protection Acts but not paid through Birmingham Foster Mother Scheme .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Removed to institutions .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Died .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Inquest .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Removed out of City with foster mother .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Total payments to foster mothers .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£972 14 2
Total payments by parents .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£793 15 6
Cost to Public Health Department .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£178 18 8

Average cost per child, per week, 3/-.

*Foster children registered under Child Life Protection Acts, but not paid through
Birmingham Foster Mother Scheme, who were removed from the register :*

Adopted by foster parents .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Removed to other homes for adoption .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Removed to care of own parent .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	43
Removed with foster mother to an out of City address .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Died (inhalation asphyxia) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Inquest .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

(Coroner satisfied as to care of child).

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water Supply

No changes have occurred in the general water supply of the City, which has continued to be satisfactory, both from the point of quality and quantity. A constant supply of pure water is available from a network of distribution mains, and of the 292,513 houses in the City, 287,082 have an internal water supply. Conversions to individual water supplies have been proceeding at the approximate rate of 100 per month.

Throughout the year the closest co-operation has been maintained with the Water Department.

Routine Sampling of Corporation Water

The main supply from the Frankley and Whitacre undertakings and the deep wells at Shorth Heath and Longbridge has been under constant supervision throughout the year, and a total of 856 bacteriological and 359 chemical samples have been submitted for examination. At each weekly visit to Frankley and Whitacre, samples are taken from the raw water both before and after storage, and from the treated water after filtration and chlorination, special samples being also taken from the filter outlets, the storage reservoirs and the City levels of supply. Routine samples are also taken from the Elan Valley waterworks and the aqueduct at Ludlow, and in this way the quality of the water supply is safeguarded at each stage of the purification process.

All samples of treated water, leaving Frankley and Whitacre, have been entirely satisfactory.

The results of chemical analysis have been equally satisfactory, the average composition of the filtered water leaving Frankley and Whitacre being :—

<i>Parts per 100,000</i>	<i>Frankley</i>	<i>Whitacre</i>
Total solid matter	4.2	39.0
Free and saline ammonia.....	0.000	0.000
Albuminoid ammonia	0.002	0.004
Nitrogen as nitrates	0.04	0.20
Oxygen consumed in 3 hrs. at 27°C.	0.12	0.06
Chlorine as chlorides	0.90	4.0
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	1.0	—
Hardness as CaCO ₃	2.4	19.0
pH	7.1	7.8
Erosion	10.5	—
Plumbo-solvency	—	—

Sampling of Well Water

During the year, 180 visits of inspection have been made to premises remaining on the well register, and of this number, 75 were found to be dependent on the well water supply for drinking purposes. A classification of the visits is as follows :—

Total visits .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	180
Well still used for drinking purposes .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	75
Corporation supply installed—well filled in .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	27
Corporation supply installed—well still active .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	41
Property demolished since last visit .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	35
No individual supply on premises .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2

Sixty-five bacteriological and sixty-five chemical samples were submitted for examination, 45 being from domestic, 5 from farms, and 15 from factory premises. The provision of a piped Corporation supply to these domestic and farm premises is a matter of great difficulty, as the majority of them are near the City boundary, and often a considerable distance from the nearest water main. The cost and scarcity of materials, the short expectation of life of many of these properties, and the lack of adequate drainage facilities have all to be borne in mind when coming to a decision as to connection with the main supply.

Water Supply to Institutions

The water supply to six residential institutions under the control of the Health Committee and the Education Committee respectively were supervised during the year, involving a total of 75 bacteriological and 63 chemical samples. Several of these institutions have now passed to the Regional Hospital Board, who will be responsible for future sampling. The well supply to the Haseley Hall Open Air Residential School was found to be polluted, and following representations to the appropriate authority, a chlorinating plant was installed with satisfactory results.

Sanitary Inspection

There were 165,583 visits made during the year by the staff of sanitary inspectors. Of this total 106,502 house inspections were made for various reasons, and investigations of infectious diseases and miscellaneous complaints caused 9,349 visits.

The summonses taken out during the year were as follows :

General Nuisances.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,866
Dogs fouling footway .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Section 83, Public Health Act, 1936 (verminous conditions) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Contravention of the houses let in lodgings bye-laws .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16
Emissions of smoke .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
							1,896

Magistrates Orders were obtained in 286 instances.

Squatters' Camps

During the past year the former military camps which are occupied by squatters have with one exception come under the management of the Estates Department. At the remaining camp there are only two occupied huts, and these are being maintained by this Department until such time as the Estates Department are able to find alternative accommodation for the occupiers.

Section 59, Birmingham Corporation Act, 1946

Notices are served under this section on the persons responsible for the opening and cleansing of obstructed drains, calling upon them to remove any obstruction within 24 hours. If the Notice is not complied with within the time specified, the Corporation may carry out the work necessary to abate the nuisance and any expenses so incurred may be recovered from the person on whom the Notice was served.

Total number of Notices served during 1948	.....	.....	1,972
Work carried out by owners in the time specified	.....	.....	1,222
Orders given by Corporation to builders to carry out necessary work	.....	.....	750

Section 138, Public Health Act, 1936 (Provision of Internal Water Supplies)

The service of Notices was resumed on the 1st of January. During the year 970 Notices were served and supplies were installed in 522 houses.

Licences and Priority Certificates

The regulations governing the issue of building licences were revised with effect from 1st July, 1948. Since that date the free limit has been extended to £100 with respect to any one house.

Priority Certificates were issued to enable controlled materials to be purchased where necessary to comply with Statutory Notices, but the demand for these certificates decreased as the position with regard to the supply of these materials became easier. The W.B.A. priority scheme for materials ceased to have effect from 1st November, 1948.

The need for strict economy in the use of timber and the control by the Board of Trade, Timber Control, continued throughout 1948.

Number of licences issued during 1948	.....	.....	3,668
Total sums involved in licences issued	.....	.....	£92,274
Number of Priority Certificates issued	.....	.....	1,190

During the year 323 permits to purchase timber have been approved and forwarded to the Timber Control for issue.

Section 32, Birmingham Corporation Act, 1948

Notices are served under the provisions of this section where a dwelling house is found to be in such a defective state that in the opinion of the Corporation unreasonable delay would be occasioned by following the procedure prescribed by sections 93 to 95 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the abatement of nuisances.

The notice informs the person on whom it is served that the Corporation intend to remedy the defective state of the dwelling house after 9 days unless the person, on whom that notice was served, serves upon the Corporation a counter notice stating that he intends to remedy the defective state.

If the work required is not completed in a reasonable time then the Corporation may themselves execute the work and any expenses reasonably incurred by them may be recovered from the person on whom the notice was served.

When it is necessary for the Corporation to do the work the order is placed with a builder on the Department's approved list. In all cases the work is executed without delay and this section has proved to be of great benefit to the work of this Department.

Number of notices served	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	159
Work carried out by owners	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	110
Work carried out by Corporation	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	49

Enforcement Section

Since March, 1947, a special Enforcement Section has been in action in the department to deal with summonses necessary as a result of non-compliance with Statutory Notices, and two sanitary inspectors are engaged full time in this work.

Number of summonses issued	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,896
Number of magistrates' orders	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	286

The above figures relate to the actual number of summonses heard, and do not indicate the total number of adjourned hearings, which approximate to forty per week.

<i>Work carried out in default :</i>		<i>Cost</i>
Executed by Repairs Section	.....	78
Executed by Builders	.....	17

<i>Work carried out at request of Owners :</i>		
By Repair Section	.....	28
By Builders	.....	27

<i>Houses provided with internal water supply :</i>		
At default of Owners	.....	26
At request of Owners	.....	42

The average cost of the works carried out by the repairs section is between £20 and £50.

Works at higher cost have been carried out by contractors after the preparation of specifications on a day to day plus cost basis where the urgency of the repairs has warranted it.

Some of these works have also been carried out by contractors after the obtaining of estimates which are duly approved by the Health Committee.

Staff

The strength of the inspectorial staff at the beginning and at the end of the year was as follows :—

		<i>January</i> 1948	<i>December</i> 1948
Chief Sanitary Inspector	....	1	1
Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector	....	1	1
Divisional Sanitary Inspectors	....	2	2
District Sanitary Inspectors	....	10	10
Rodent Control Officer	....	1	1
Assistant Rodent Control Officer	....	1	1
Water and Canal Boats Inspector	....	1	1
Assistant Sanitary Inspectors	....	26	27
Pupil Sanitary Inspectors	....	5	10
Enforcement Officer	....	1	1
Assistant to Enforcement Officer	....	1	1

All the five pupil sanitary inspectors on the staff on 1st January, 1948, obtained their certificates during the year.

There are 6 Rodent Operatives engaged in inspection and a further 22 engaged in sewer maintenance and general treatment of premises.

Special Inspectors

Staff at beginning and end of the year.

		<i>January</i> 1948	<i>December</i> 1948
Shop Inspectors	....	3	4
Smoke Inspectors :			
Senior Inspector	....	1	1
Inspectors	....	3	4
Milk and Dairies Inspectors :			
Senior Inspectors	....	1	1
Inspectors	....	2	2
Assistant Inspectors	....	2	2

Offensive Trades

There was no cause to take special action in respect of premises registered for the carrying on of offensive trades during the year, to which sanitary inspectors made a total of 39 visits.

Common Lodging Houses

At the end of the year there were 12 registered common lodging houses in the City, affording accommodation for 726 males and 46 females. These premises have continued under regular supervision during the year.

Number of houses on register (for males only)	11
Number of houses on register (for females only)	1
Number of lodgers allowed	772
Number of visits	127

(One common lodging house was closed during the year).

Houses Let in Lodgings

At the end of the year there were 326 houses let in lodgings on the register, containing 2,265 rooms. They were let as follows :—

Number of lets of single rooms	795
Number of lets of two or more rooms together	751
Certified accommodation (persons)	3,808

There were 541 visits and 766 re-visits paid during the year.

Tents, Vans and Sheds

Few complaints were received during the year concerning tents, vans and sheds, and these have been mostly dealt with by the City Surveyor under the Birmingham Corporation (General Powers) Act, 1929. Ten visits were made by Sanitary Inspectors during the year.

Canal Boats

The number of boats inspected on the canals within the City area was 1,033.

These boats were registered for the accommodation of 3,285½ persons, and when inspected were found to be carrying 797 men, 634 women and 720 children, represented in terms of adults as 1,791.

Of the 1,033 boats inspected during the year it was found that 929 or 89·9 per cent. were in good condition and conforming with the Act and Regulations, while in 104, or 10·1 per cent. of the total, various contraventions were found.

Complaint notes were duly served on the owners in all cases. There were 71 contraventions outstanding at the end of 1947, and a further 220 were found during 1948. Of these, 253 were remedied during the year, leaving 38 still outstanding at the end of December.

It has not been necessary during the year to take any Court proceedings under the Act or Regulations.

The number of canal boats on the Birmingham register at the end of 1948 was 590.

Factories Act, 1937

The number of visits paid to factories with mechanical and non-mechanical power totalled 2,398. This number includes visits paid under Section 9 of the Factories Act, 1937, and also advisory and routine visits in respect of work in progress following the service of a notice.

In co-operation with H.M. Inspectors of Factories of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, joint visits were paid to industrial premises to support, where necessary, applications for the re-building or installation of additional sanitary accommodation.

The survey of premises coming within the scope of the Factories Act, 1937, continues ; factories being classified as follows :—

1. Factories with non-mechanical power	.....	.....	.....	1,081
2. Factories with mechanical power	.....	.....	.....	5,423

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

I. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1,081	174	36	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	5,423	2,171	247	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	40	26	1	—
TOTAL	6,544	2,371	284	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	18	26	—	—	29
Overcrowding (S.2)	2	2	—	—	1
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	2	—	—	4
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	—	—	2
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	1
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	74	48	—	—	61
(b) Unsuitable or defective	498	385	—	—	234
(c) Not separate for sexes	65	58	—	—	34
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	8	9	10	—	—
TOTAL	672	531	10	366	—

OUTWORK. (Sections 110 and 111).

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)</i>
Wearing apparel :	
Making, etc.	158
Furniture and upholstery	10
Electro-plate	38
Brass and brass articles	194
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	24
Brush making	59
TOTAL	483

Rodent Control

Rodent control has continued on the general lines laid down in previous reports, and the full-time staff employed totalled 31 at the end of the year, consisting of two rodent officers, a clerk, six inspectors and 22 operatives.

I. Complaints

Complaints received during the year were 2,649, an increase of 16 over the previous year. Treatment was found necessary in practically all cases, and a total of 2,885 separate treatments (industrial 1,120, domestic 1,765) were given. Domestic premises are treated free of cost under the provisions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Circular N.S.19 while treatment of industrial premises is charged to the occupier. The methods used in these treatments are the standard methods advised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, which have given excellent results, and the "pick up" of 1,485 dead rats and 654 dead mice represents only a very small proportion of the total kill. The materials used in this section of the work were :—

Sausage rusk	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3,979½ lbs.
Zinc phosphide	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1,050½ ozs.
Red squill	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	23½ ozs.

II. Sewer Treatment

The 4th and 5th maintenance treatments were completed during the year, and the 6th treatment has commenced. These maintenance treatments are carried out at six-monthly intervals, engaging the full-time employment of two squads of three men each, and in this way the rat population in the sewers is kept at a minimum and large scale migration to surface premises by way of defective drains is unlikely to occur. The complete city sewer system extends over approximately 1,400 miles, and has about 20,000 manholes, and during the year 14,267 manholes were baited and poisoned. The area covered by the sewer maintenance treatment is roughly bounded by the Outer Circle 'bus route on the north, south and east sides of the City, but on the west side extends to the boundary. In addition, areas in Erdington, Northfield, King's Heath and Yardley are included.

Materials used in the sewer treatments were :—

		Tons	Cwts.	Lbs.
Sausage rusk	....	1	9	15
Bread crumbs	....	1	10	—
Zinc phosphide	....	—	—	66½
Arsenious oxide	....	—	—	4

III. Destructors

The five large destructors operated by the City Salvage Department were all regularly inspected during the year, but no full treatment was necessary. A considerable amount of work has been done by hand killing in certain sections, such as the hoppers and paper baling rooms, and rat colonies which are difficult to reach with poison have in this way been exterminated.

IV. General

Various requests have been received for live and dead rats required for experimental purposes by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and other scientific bodies, and in all cases the section has been able to provide help. A survey of the rodent population of Birmingham as regards the degree of infection by salmonella organisms has been commenced in co-operation with the City Bacteriological Laboratory, and although this is likely to prove a prolonged investigation, it should provide valuable material in connection with certain outbreaks of food poisoning.

An increasing public interest in the work of Rodent Control has been evident for several years, and the Senior Rodent Officer, in addition to giving lectures and demonstrations to students from the University and the Central Technical College, has been asked to lecture to university and school biology societies on the work of a rodent officer. This aspect of the work in Birmingham was given a wider publicity in a B.B.C. broadcast towards the end of the year.

Supervision of Shops

At the beginning of the year, three whole-time Inspectors were available for the work of inspection in relation to the Shops Acts, 1912-36, Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938, and numerous Closing and Exemption Orders. The full complement of four Inspectors was reached in May by the appointment of three new inspectors, and the transfer of two existing inspectors from the shops staff to the Chief Sanitary inspector's Staff and the Senior Housing Officer's staff respectively.

Defence Regulation 60 AB modifying the Shops (Hours of Closing) Act, 1928, was in operation from the beginning of the year until 6th March, and again from 7th November until the close of the year.

The work of the Shops Act Inspectors is summarised as follows :—

General Inspections :

Visits .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9,889
Re-visits .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,331

Special Visits :

Half-day closing of shops (S.A. 1912) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,817
Night closing of shops (S.A. 1928 and Reg. 60AB) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,358
Sunday closing of shops (S.A. 1936) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,094
Appointments .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	167

TOTAL VISITS 18,656

Number of streets patrolled by day (1912 Act) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,157
Number of streets patrolled by day (1928 Act) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	651
Number of streets patrolled by day (1936 Act) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,167

TOTAL 3,975

OFFENCES REPORTED, ETC.

Shops Acts Notices not exhibited .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,360
Not providing seats for female assistants .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25
Not closing to time evenings .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	173
Not closing to time half-days .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	287
Not closing Sundays .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	48
To provide W.C. accommodation .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
To provide suitable ventilation .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
To provide suitable heating .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
To provide washing facilities .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Mess-rooms to be cleansed .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Nuisances reported .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	505
Statutory Notices served (1934 Act) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Warning letter sent for contravention of S.A. 1912 (Half-day Closing) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25
Warning letters sent for contraventions of S.A. 1928 and Reg. 60AB (Night Closing) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	71
Warning letters sent for contraventions of S.A. 1936 (Sunday Closing) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	90
Warning letters re failure to display Shops Act Forms .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	121

During the year proceedings were taken against 12 shopkeepers, eleven for failure to comply with the Shops (Sunday Trading Restrictions) Act, 1936, and one for a contravention of the Shops (Hours of Closing) Act, 1928 as amended by Defence Regulation 60 AB. Fines were imposed by the magistrates in all cases.

The Birmingham late day (Hairdressers and Barbers) Order, 1948, came into force on 12th October, and changed the "late day" for this group of shopkeepers from Saturday to Friday.

Smoke Abatement

The fuel efficiency campaign carried out under the auspices of the Regional Joint Educational Committee of the Ministry of Fuel and Power and the Institute of Fuel, for the purpose of securing economy in the use of fuel, has also been instrumental in securing the reduction of black smoke emissions from hand-fired boiler-plant. This has particularly been noted when stokers have attended the course of lectures in boiler-house practice, and it is hoped that these practical lecture-courses will be still further supported and will remain a permanent feature of the fuel efficiency campaign.

The small vertical boiler commonly found in so many factories remains the principal offender in emitting smoke. In most cases these are hand-fired, with boiler-slack as fuel, and by an employee who has other duties to perform. Under such conditions it is most difficult to maintain the required steam pressure without creating heavy smoke emissions, and although advice and practical demonstration by an Inspector may lead to some improvement, this is seldom lasting, and the obvious remedy is mechanical stoking.

In the collection of evidence at the request of the National Smoke Abatement Society, who conducted a National Survey into the sources and incidence of atmospheric pollution during the earlier part of the year, it was established that the most serious sources of smoke pollution within the City boundaries could be grouped under three headings in the following order of importance :—

1. Industrial boiler plant.
2. Industrial metallurgical trade-process furnaces.
3. Domestic firegrates.

Fumes

A variety of complaints have been dealt with, including those related to the fumes from cellulose and synthetic paint-spraying, cyanide hardening processes, and brass and phosphor-bronze casting.

By advisory visits and co-operation with the various managements, the introduction of collecting hoods and extractor fans, discharging into suitable chimney stacks, and in other cases the washing of the fumes, by means of water sprays and baffles, the cause of complaint has generally been eliminated.

Noise Abatement

With war-time conditions now happily over, people seem to have become more noise-conscious where the noise affects the amenities of the home at night. This was particularly the case during the first three months of the year, when, in co-operation with the electricity load-shedding programme, many factories worked a night-shift. The result was that Inspectors spent many evening and night hours investigating noise complaints which had been received from residents of houses adjacent to industrial premises.

Few factories are constructed with adequate insulation to restrict noise from machinery, and the planning and layout of noisy machinery often fails to receive due consideration before and during installation, in relation to the type of work to be done and the proximity of domestic dwellings. This has been particularly noticeable in regard to the installation of high speed machinery such as air compressors, generating engines, exhaust fans, polishing bobs, grinding wheels and woodworking machinery.

When dealing with complaints of this nature under Section 58 of the Birmingham Corporation Act, 1935, each case has to be considered individually so as to select the appropriate remedial measure ; and it has been found that by discussion with managers, and with their sympathetic co-operation, some means can usually be provided which will reduce, if not eliminate, the complaint in question.

Swimming Baths

Close supervision of the following baths has been continued :—

Corporation swimming baths	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24
Education Department institutions	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Private baths	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Orphanage and school	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Approved school	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Deaf Institution	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

During the year 215 bacteriological and 215 chemical samples were taken from the Corporation baths, the results being generally very satisfactory, but in 41 cases the total bacterial count was higher than usual, and in 20 cases *B.coli* was detected in the water. These results show a higher proportion of contaminated waters than was noted in 1947, but this can be explained by the use of a new technique in sampling the water. Prior to 1948, the sample of water, containing a certain number of bacteria and also a small quantity of free chlorine was submitted to laboratory examination, and during the interval between sampling and examination the free chlorine was able to exercise its sterilising effect on the water. In 1948, a small quantity of sodium thiosulphate solution was added to each sampling bottle, and the free chlorine in the water

sample neutralised at the time of sampling. The result, therefore, represents a much more accurate estimation of bacteriological contamination than has obtained in the past, and serves to demonstrate the necessity of maintaining a free chlorine level of at least 0·5 parts per million in the case of baths which carry a heavy bathing load.

The swim baths in the various institutions are generally open only during the summer months, and 17 bacteriological and 17 chemical samples were taken from them. Those baths employing a modern method of filtration and sterilisation gave satisfactory results, but those still using a primitive system of hand chlorination were unable to reach a satisfactory standard.

The three baths belonging to a private firm in the City were regularly sampled on 23 occasions and gave excellent results.

Louse Infestation

The numbers of cases treated at Bacchus Road Cleansing Station are set out in the following table. This is the only centre now remaining open for the treatment of verminous conditions.

	Males		Females		Children	
	Head Lice	Body Lice	Head Lice	Body Lice	Head Lice	Body Lice
1945	—	2	622	133	47	—
1946	1	574	120	42	62
1947	—	567	97	18	14
1948	—	539	155	50	—
						2

The majority of the cases of head and body vermin treated at Bacchus Road are drawn from common lodging houses and night shelters, but an increasingly large number of the female cases are factory employees recently arrived in the City, and referred by the Factory Welfare Officer prior to billeting in Workers' Hostels. A very small number of children visit this centre as juvenile cases are dealt with by the School Clinics.

Scabies

The number of treatments given at Scabies Centres has continued to show a decline, and only 3,551 cases were treated during 1948 compared with 7,432 cases during 1947. The former figure gives an average weekly attendance of 68.

The Scabies Centre at Little Bromwich Hospital closed in July, 1948, and three centres remained open at the end of the year.

The general arrangements for ascertainment, treatment and the following up of contacts have continued without any substantial alteration.

TREATMENT OF SCABIES

<i>Clinic</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bacchus Road	347	399	396	1,142
Floodgate Street	613	—	54	667
Sheep Street	—	616	584	1,200
Little Bromwich	107	188	247	542
(to July, 1948)				
Total (1948)	1,067	1,203	1,281	3,551
Total (1947)	2,233	2,677	2,522	7,432
Total (1946)	4,219	5,496	5,156	14,871
Total (1945)	3,852	6,570	6,140	16,562

Disinfection

The following table gives details of the work done during 1948 :

Houses disinfected after scarlet fever .....	.....	.....	.....	2
Houses disinfected after tuberculosis .....	.....	.....	.....	1,525
Houses disinfected after miscellaneous diseases (on request) .....	.....	.....	.....	1,167
Beds disinfected .....	.....	.....	.....	245
Miscellaneous articles of clothing and bedding disinfected .....	.....	.....	.....	23,885

SECTION D

HOUSING

Substantial improvement in housing conditions can only be achieved if new houses are made available in sufficient numbers. During the year the number of houses erected exceeded last year's total by 19% ; of a total of 3,362 houses completed 470 were erected by private enterprise, as compared with 2,826 and 667 respectively in 1947.

Certain other improvements were effected. Action directed towards the abatement of nuisances was on an increased scale ; precise figures are in Section C. A few of the worst slums were removed by statutory action under the Housing Acts. Unfortunately this latter step, unavoidable in view of the condition of the affected houses, reduced the number of available housing units in the City, 126 houses being thrown permanently out of occupation. In the Re-development Areas 332 houses were thrown out of occupation, chiefly for structural reasons. The net increase in the number of houses, counting in war damaged houses re-built and flats made available by sub-division of existing houses was 3,494.

During the same period the Application Register of the Estates Department rose from 61,813 to 67,740, an increase of 5,927 despite the re-housing of 4,577 families in various ways. Because of the impossibility of day-to-day revision, the Application Register cannot be taken to be a completely up-to-date and accurate record of urgent cases. The growth of the list is nevertheless a valuable indication as to whether or not the supply of new houses is keeping pace with the increase in the number of families in need of accommodation.

The difficulties attendant on building repairs have eased somewhat during the year. There has been no marked shortage of the class of labour employed in this work and materials have been more easily obtainable ; on the other hand, the cost of repair work has appreciated during the year, and many owners who, before the war, carried out some form of maintenance work each year appear now to find the situation increasingly difficult.

It has not been practicable to resume comprehensive action under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936 ; action has continued in respect only of those items which are regarded as urgent under the present circumstances. Progress has been made in requiring the provision of separate internal water supplies to houses not so provided ; during the year 522 such supplies were installed.

Acquisition of the Areas covered by the Birmingham (Central Re-development) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1946, has been systematised and the rate of vesting has been increased. During the year substantial blocks of dwellinghouse property were vested, bringing the total number of houses now owned by the Corporation within the Re-development Areas to 10,687. By this means the whole of the dwellinghouses affected

by official representations under the clearance provisions of the Housing Acts before the war have now been transferred to the Corporation. The problems arising from the ownership of these and other sub-standard houses are complex and substantial. The Central Areas Management Committee have taken steps to cope with the work of repair and improvement, now their responsibility ; and towards the end of the year it was apparent that such works will raise the standard of housing for a very great number of citizens. The works now being carried out are, of course, short-term works ; the ultimate intention is that practically every dwelling-house in the Re-development Areas shall be demolished and replaced by other houses or flats, either on the Areas or elsewhere. The response of the occupying tenants to these limited schemes of repair has proved that the present operations are beneficial to a degree almost beyond expectations. This has meant continuous and active co-operation between the Public Health Department, the Central Areas Management Department in cases where actual development may necessitate comparatively early demolition of existing houses, the Public Works Department, and, in the ever present difficulty of transferring tenants, the Estates Department. That co-operation has proved speedy and effective.

A difficulty peculiar to re-development under the present circumstances is that, although it is known that (when surveys are completed, specifications prepared and tenders received and accepted), works may be carried out in respect of relatively large property units, yet from time to time, owing to the extremely low standard of these properties, urgent nuisances arise which require immediate remedy. As an illustration I would quote a case where tenders were being asked for to execute complete stripping and re-roofing of a large block of houses. During the time that that operation took, nuisances due to slipped and broken slates, and in one case to the effects of a chimney pot which had fallen through the roof, gave rise to the necessity for immediate action. From the purely financial angle, such action is unproductive, as the work done to remedy such nuisances will, practically always, be undone within a month or two when the larger operation, itself a temporary expedient, is undertaken .

New Houses

During the year 1,870 houses were built, 1,400 by the Corporation and 470 by private enterprise. In addition 1,492 temporary bungalows were erected by the Government in pursuance of the National Scheme for meeting the immediate housing need ; this completes the programme for the erection of such bungalows. The work of re-building houses thrown out of use by war damage was actively pursued and during the year 361 houses were re-built under private enterprise and 58 by the Corporation. Accommodation has also been increased by the conversion of existing houses into flats, and during the year private enterprise yielded 102 additional habitations, whilst the Corporation carried out conversions yielding 69 additional habitations of the class "B.2" type.

I am indebted to the City Engineer and Surveyor for these figures and also for the fuller information covering the period since the end of the last war set out below :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>NUMBER OF HOUSES ERECTED</i>	<i>By Private enterprise</i>	<i>By the Corporation</i>	<i>Government Temporary Bungalows</i>	<i>Total</i>
1919	29	—	—	29
1920	244	553	—	797
1921	426	970	—	1,396
1922	382	810	—	1,192
1923	556	1,621	—	2,177
1924	1,201	2,004	—	3,205
1925	1,774	3,215	—	4,989
1926	1,775	5,159	—	6,934
1927	2,445	4,007	—	6,452
1928	1,487	3,505	—	4,992
1929	2,456	4,359	—	6,815
1930	1,738	6,687	—	8,425
1931	1,983	3,893	—	5,876
1932	2,159	1,703	—	3,862
1933	3,028	2,029	—	5,057
1934	4,226	837	—	5,063
1935	6,265	985	—	7,250
1936	6,926	2,285	—	9,211
1937	7,662	2,643	—	10,305
1938	7,804	3,003	—	10,807
1939	5,178	1,413	—	6,591
1940	1,183	302	—	1,485
1941	181	10	—	191
1942	26	63	—	89
1943	5	35	—	40
1944	37	2	—	39
1945	25	6	325	356
1946	550	413	1,475	2,438
1947	667	826	1,333	2,826
1948	470	1,400	1,492	3,362
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		62,888	54,738	4,625	122,251
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

These figures do not include houses re-built after war damage, nor flats provided by sub-division of larger houses.

Housing Act, 1936

During the year no representations were made in respect of Clearance Areas. The vesting of the Re-development Areas has covered all the 2,741 houses previously represented and lying within the boundaries of those Areas. Outside the boundaries of the Re-development Areas there are also some Clearance Areas where action was suspended before the Orders had become operative. These include 345 houses at present standing with 294 still occupied. Certain houses, to a total of 89, previously regarded as unfit for human habitation or included in Housing

Compulsory Purchase Orders as "grey" properties and now owned by the Corporation, were re-occupied during the war years, after the execution of works on a limited scale, under the authority of apposite Ministry of Health circulars.

As soon as conditions permit, radical action must be taken towards clearance of houses which are to-day in such a condition that, before the war, they would have been regarded as the very worst amongst houses constituting any of the Areas then dealt with. This action is necessarily dependent on the provision of new houses, and no alteration in powers or procedure will make clearance possible unless alternative accommodation is available in advance of demolition. It has always to be remembered that deterioration of such houses accelerates with age.

Individual action has continued to be restricted most severely, and in many cases taken the buildings were on the point of collapse or were totally unsuited to, and in some cases not intended for, occupation by human beings. The following table gives particulars of such action in its several categories :—

Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which official representations were made	131
2. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which undertakings under Section 11 (3) were accepted :	
(a) Not to use for human habitation	6
(b) To carry out works to render fit for human habitation	1
3. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	115
4. Number of houses demolished :	
(a) In pursuance of Demolition Orders	113
(b) after representation and prior to the making of Demolition Orders	2
(c) After the making of Closing Orders	3
(d) After an undertaking not to use for human habitation had been accepted	2
5. Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit for human habitation in pursuance of undertakings under Section 11 (3)	2
6. Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit for human habitation by Central Areas Management Department on acquisition after representation	2

Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of parts of buildings, separate tenements, or underground rooms in respect of which official representations were made	6
2. Number of parts of buildings or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	9
3. Number of parts of buildings in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the part of building or room having been rendered fit	2

At the close of the year 211 houses, urgently represented as unfit for human habitation, were affected by non-user undertakings or by Closing Orders. These are visited periodically to ensure that the restriction on use is observed. Under the authority of the Ministry of Health Circular 1,866 of 8th September, 1939, 23 houses remain in occupation despite the fact that action has been taken with a view to demolition or closure. These houses are inspected regularly to ensure that conditions are maintained at a proper level.

Town and Country Planning Acts, 1944/7 ; Re-development

When the Re-development proposals were initially considered by the City Council, it was assumed that, despite the magnitude of the scheme, it would be possible to proceed with a measure of actual re-development simultaneously in each of the five areas mentioned in the schedule to the Order. Owing to the continuance of difficulties of re-housing, this has not proved possible during the year. Under proposals which are now in an advanced stage it is hoped that within two years a start may be made on the Duddeston and Nечells area, and the repair of houses on the site covered by these proposals has necessarily been restricted to the barest minimum. Many of the houses so affected have, in fact, been vacated and either boarded up or demolished. The present proposals provide for the erection of modern flats to accommodate a number of families in excess of the number to be dispossessed, although, in general, it will not be possible in the Re-development Scheme as a whole to provide new accommodation on the site for more than two-thirds of those now living there.

Of the 29,526 houses originally involved, 10,687 are now in Corporation ownership, the speed in transfer having been made possible by the powers conferred on the Local Authority by the Town and Country Planning Acts.

In July, 1947, on the report of the Public Works Committee, the City Council agreed to allot 25% of the houses erected by the Corporation to the Central Areas Management Committee for use in connection with re-development. From August 1st, 1947, up to December 31st, 1948, 1,857 houses had been erected, equivalent on a basis of 25% to an allotment of 464 houses ; at December 31st, 287 had actually been handed over, leaving 177 houses to be added to the quota due in 1949.

Experience has now been gained in the repair of houses of the lowest standard. The Central Areas Management Committee have agreed that works of initial repair, as nearly as possible immediately following vesting, shall embrace all the items which the Health Committee might require to be executed by a private owner, and shall also include provision for simple painting and distempering, as well as borderline items not called for by the Health Committee on the restricted standard at present applied

by them, but which would normally be carried out by a good landlord. The Central Areas Management Committee have also decided that, where the tenants agree, internal water taps and sinks are to be installed to houses at present without that service. By this means it is hoped that the number of 3,772 houses without such supplies will be substantially reduced during the next two years. City Council sanction was given to the sum of £50,000 on 12th October, 1948, estimated to cover such cases and in addition to allow for the provision of W.C. accommodation to a standard of not less than one W.C. per two dwellings.

These improvements, however, are not to be undertaken in respect of the following classes of properties, viz. :—

- (i) Dwellinghouses with a " life " less than five years.
- (ii) Dwellinghouses outside the economic limits of reinstatement (i.e., where deterioration is so far advanced as to warrant the early closure of the premises).
- (iii) Dwellinghouses included in the first vesting declaration, and possibly within the area next in priority for re-development by the Public Works Committee.
- (iv) Dwellinghouses having insufficient space for the convenient installation of these services.

Housing Survey and Overcrowding

In the report of the Housing Survey, 1946, it was recorded that, within the City boundary, there were 6,429 houses without a separate internal water supply, 3,853 being within the re-development areas. At the end of 1948 these figures had been reduced to 5,431 and 3,772 respectively, mainly as the result of action by the Department. If the present rate of progress as a result of action by the department is maintained, there should be a substantial diminution in these figures, and the outstanding cases in the re-development areas will, as indicated above, be dealt with in appreciable numbers. For reasons also quoted above it will not be possible to deal with the whole of the outstanding cases outside the re-development areas, although within those areas all houses will be provided with a water supply, save only those destined for relatively early demolition.

No information is available to indicate whether the direct abatement of overcrowding, by the action of the Estates Department in allocating new houses and arranging exchanges, has produced a substantial diminution of overcrowding in the City as a whole, as there are indications that a continual influx of workers and their families new to the City has crowded into existing houses. On page 5, the Registrar General's figures show an overall increase in population of 19,870 over that in 1947, equivalent to 5,285 houses at a rate of 3.76 persons per house.

The following figures have been supplied by Mr. Wallace Smith :—

Total accommodation available for letting during 1948 ..	3,668 (including 587 re-lets)
Total families re-housed ..	4,577
No. of families in requisitioned houses at 31st Dec., 1948 ..	2,468
Application register at 31st December, 1948 ..	67,740
Application register at 1st January, 1948 ..	61,813
Increase in entries in Application Register during the year ..	5,927

Of the allocations made by the Estate Department, 997 were in respect of overcrowded or undesirably sub-let houses. Particulars of these were referred to the Public Health Department, and 700 were found to be overcrowded on the limited standard set out in the Housing Act, 1936. Of the 997, 993 were sub-tenant families; 348 cases were occupants of Estates Department houses, 649 of privately owned houses. In all these cases 2,214 adults and 1,961 children were involved, an average of 4·2 persons per family re-housed.

In every case referred to this Department a visit was made and in those cases found to be statutorily overcrowded suitable follow-up action was taken to prevent re-crowding. Warning letters to this end were sent to the principal occupiers in 758 cases, and further visits were made to ensure that further contraventions had not occurred. During the year statements of the Permitted Numbers, that is the number of persons (expressed as " equivalent adults ") allowed to occupy a house, were sent to private owners, to the Estates Department, and to the Central Areas Management Department in respect of a total of 13,269 houses, involving measurement of rooms or a check of existing records in every case.

Many applications have continued to be received directly from applicants on the Estates Department Register asking for assistance in re-housing and urging priority claims on the grounds of ill-health, overcrowding, structural defect in their present accommodation, or a combination of these circumstances. A large number of other cases were referred for investigation by members of the City Council or Members of Parliament.

Excluding cases dealt with by direct reference to the Central Areas Management Department, 90 cases of substantiated overcrowding were passed to the Estates Department for consideration; 9 cases were referred on grounds other than overcrowding; 3 cases were referred on grounds of sex overcrowding, and 133 were referred by the Department's Medical Officers, who during the year investigated 1,217 cases specially referred to them. These references on medical grounds do not include cases of infectious pulmonary tuberculosis, details of which are submitted by the Anti-Tuberculosis Centre, and receive priority second only to that for a dangerous dwelling.

Special consideration has continued to be given to the households of patients suffering from active and infectious pulmonary tuberculosis and reference to this is made in Section F on page 124.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Eating Houses

There are 913 eating houses registered under Section 54 (1) of the Birmingham Corporation Act, 1935. These include restaurants, cafes, snack bars, etc., but exclude clubs, licensed houses and other premises which are subject to inspection only.

Inspection under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, is carried out by the District Inspectors, and has been considerably intensified during the year.

Towards the end of the year Circular 4/48 of the Ministry of Food required the approval of the Local Authority prior to the grant of a catering licence. This has led to close collaboration between the Food Office and the Public Works Department as to the suitability of plans and conformity with town planning requirements, and between the Food Office and the Public Health Department, as to compliance with Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, and as to suitability for registration, before a catering licence is granted. This has increased the amount of clerical work in connection with inspection and registration of eating houses, but has shown many advantages in the results achieved. Sanitary defects have been prevented and time and money saved.

During the year, a campaign was started to educate food handlers as part of the national drive to eliminate food and drink infections. In the absence of any suitable films from civilian sources, the following military training films have been widely shown to the food trade organisations, staffs of catering establishments and other interested associations.

Cookhouse Inspection	(25 minutes)
The Housefly	(18 minutes)
Hand to Mouth	(4 minutes)

A film strip—to be called “Clean Food,” is in course of preparation in the Department.

The details of the film showings so far given, accompanied by an explanatory talk, are :—

<i>No. of Lectures</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>
32	1,147

This is being continued and extended during 1949.

Ice Cream

The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1948, have further deferred the obligation to install indicating and recording thermometers.

The Senior Milk and Dairies Inspector and the four Inspectors have pursued a vigorous campaign to improve the conditions under which ice cream is manufactured, stored and distributed. More samples have been taken than in previous years, and results have been encouraging. 390 samples taken for bacteriological investigation have been submitted to the Methylene Blue Test, with the following results.

Grade I	55.6%	(44.8%)
Grade II	21.0%	(25.1%)
Grade III	9.7%	(15.3%)
Grade IV	13.6%	(14.7%)

The corresponding results for 1947 are shown in brackets.

Those failing to pass the test, i.e., falling in Grades III and IV, included 16 out of 37 samples of ice cream manufactured outside the City, these failures being in general due to the time which elapsed between manufacture and sampling. Of those manufactured in the City, improvement has been found to follow the Inspector's advisory visit, and the trade have shown themselves very willing to co-operate in effecting the appropriate remedy.

The nutritive quality of ice cream has also improved, as shown by 151 samples submitted for analysis of fat content. The results were as follows :—

Percentage of Fat	No. of Samples	
	1948	1947
Less than 1	14 (9.3%)	9 (21.4%)
1—2	23 (15.2%)	13 (30.9%)
2—4	52 (34.4%)	13 (30.9%)
4—8	55 (36.4%)	4 (9.5%)
8—10	5 (3.3%)	2 (4.7%)
Over 10	2 (1.3%)	1 (2.6%)

The corresponding figures for 1947, with the percentage in each case, are also shown.

The risk of contamination of a loose ice cream exposed for sale in the open has continued to be a matter for concern, but two new improved types of vehicle have been designed locally and a number were brought into use during the summer. It is anticipated that all traders engaged in the street sale of loose ice cream will operate only approved vehicles during the 1949 season. These vehicles incorporate facilities for sterilisation of servers and for ablution, while a perspex cover protects the open ice cream container and biscuits from air-borne contamination.

One prosecution for manufacturing ice cream on unregistered premises was taken during the year, and a conviction obtained.

Details of inspection of premises of ice cream manufacturers were as follows :—

Number of registered, unregistered and proposed manufacturing premises visited	236
Manufacturing premises found unregistered	3
Premises found unsuitable for manufacture	8
New manufacturing premises erected	13
Premises in course of erection, or awaiting sanction	5
Alterations to registered manufacturing premises	23
Alterations to unregistered manufacturing premises	1
Premises with minor sanitary defects	8

Milk and Dairies

	1946	1947	1948
Number of wholesale purveyors	61	59	52
Number of retail purveyors	139	136	116

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936-1946

Principal Licences

Producers of tuberculin tested milk	2
Dealers in tuberculin tested milk	22
Producers of accredited milk	14
Dealers in accredited milk	5
Producers of pasteurised milk (Holder)	7
Producers of pasteurised milk (H.T.S.T.)	8
Dealers in pasteurised milk	47

Supplementary Licences

Dealers in tuberculin tested milk	9
Dealers in accredited milk	2
Dealers in pasteurised milk	4
<hr/>	
TOTAL	120
<hr/>	

One licence to produce accredited milk was not renewed, while two new licences to produce pasteurised milk by the H.T.S.T. process were granted, one of the firms concerned not renewing his licence to pasteurise by the Holder method.

Routine inspection and sampling under the Milk and Dairies, and Milk (Special Designation) Orders were carried out, and samples of milk sold in the City from plant approved by the Ministry of Food for the production of heat-treated milk were also taken throughout the year.

839 samples of designated milk were taken, 14·2% failing by reason of the presence of *B.coli*, and 1·8% failing in the methylene blue test. In the case of pasteurised milks, 1·7% failed to pass the phosphatase test.

349 samples of raw milk were also taken during the year. *B.coli* were found to be present in 175 of these, while 106 failed to pass the methylene blue test as for designated milk.

The standard of milk sold in the City has been well maintained, and the year under review has shown a considerable reduction in the number of complaints received in the Department—14 as against 59 in the previous year. These were classified as follows :—

Dirty bottles and foreign matter in bottles	.....	.....	.....	11
Souring	.....	.....	.....	2
Overheated sterilised	.....	.....	.....	1

The reduction in the number of complaints of dirty bottles, etc., cannot be attributed to more careful cleansing in the home, school or factory before return to the dairy. Inspection shows that a cleaned bottle going forward to the bottle-washing machine is still a rarity, and it says much for the trade that so few complaints have been received.

The trade have not, however, been so effective in co-operation towards eliminating the deposit of crates of full and empty milk bottles at the roadside. To leave full bottles where they may be fouled by animals is indefensible, while the fouling of empty bottles by dust and animals can only serve to put greater strain on the mechanical washer and its supervision.

Synthetic Cream

Routine sampling of synthetic cream received at bakeries from the suppliers to the area showed the following results :—

Bacterial Count	No.	Coliform bacilli		No.
		present per 1·0 c.c.	No.	
Under 1,000	76	Nil	.....	87
1,000 to 10,000	9	Under 10	.....	6
10,000 to 100,000	6	10 to 100	.....	1
100,000 to 500,000	—	100 to 1,000	.....	1
Over 500,000	4	—	—	—
	—	95	—	95
	—	—	—	—

No instance of infection was recorded as traceable to the consumption of contaminated synthetic cream.

Shell Fish

During the year, 3 samples of oysters and 45 samples of mussels were taken by the Veterinary Department for bacteriological examination, and gave the following results :—

<i>B.coli Type I</i> <i>per 1·0 c.c. of fish</i>		<i>No. of Samples</i>
Nil	.....	18
1—5	.....	12
6—10	.....	4
11—50	.....	11
51—100	.....	0
Over 100	.....	3

Two samples of mussels from Barmouth, a source from which mussels have not been accepted in Birmingham over a number of years, again showed evidence of faecal contamination.

One unsatisfactory sample of mussels consigned from Lytham was found, on investigation, to have originated from Bangor. This consignment had not been treated in the purification tanks at Lytham.

Consultation with representatives of the Department of Agriculture (Fisheries Branch), Dublin, and the Fisheries Experimental Station, Conway, following the arrival of unsatisfactory consignments of Irish mussels showed that these had been adequately purified at Killorglin but that transit arrangements were unsatisfactory.

No infection was traced to the consumption of contaminated shellfish during the year.

Inspection of Cows and Cowsheds

Extracts from Report by MR. C. G. ALLEN, M.R.C.V.S., Chief Veterinary Officer.

City Dairies

The Milk and Dairies Orders require the registration of cow-keepers and enforcement of general requirements as to structure and cleanliness of cowsheds and precautions to be taken in connection with the milking of cows.

At the end of 1948 there were 38 dairy farms housing 702 milch cows in 93 registered sheds, viz. :—

Attested herds	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Tuberculin Tested herds	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Accredited herds	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15
Non-designated herds	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20

A monthly inspection has been made of all city cowsheds and dairy cows, and during the year 1,115 visits were made by veterinary inspectors.

Part IV. Agricultural Act, 1937

Veterinary inspections of City dairy herds were made on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and certificates issued as follows :

<i>Accredited herds</i>	<i>Cows examined</i>
32	623
<i>Non-designated herds</i>	
31	388

Dairy Herds

Despite shortage of labour and other difficulties, the health and cleanliness of the cows in the City dairies remains good. The cows are regularly examined, with a view to preventing danger to health from the sale of infected, contaminated or dirty milk, and in particular, for prohibiting the supply or sale of milk suspected of being infected with tuberculosis.

Mastitis

During the year 34 cows were found to be affected with acute catarrhal mastitis, and the milk produced from these cows was prohibited from sale.

Tuberculosis

In addition to the clinical examination of the dairy cows bulk samples of milk were taken from each City dairy herd during the year, and individual samples from suspected cows.

	Taken	Infected
Mixed samples from dairy herds	..... 83	6
Individual samples	..... 2	—

As a result of clinical examination, seven cows affected with tuberculosis were removed from the City dairy herds during the year and dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order.

In addition, at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, post mortem examinations were made on twelve cows dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order and sent to the City Meat Market from farms outside the City.

Inspection of Cowsheds

Regular inspection has been maintained of all registered cowsheds, attention being paid to the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Order for securing adequate lighting, ventilation and a clean water supply, also the cleansing of cowsheds and removal of dung and offensive matter.

In spite of labour shortage all cowsheds have been limewashed or sprayed with lime at least twice during the year.

Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915

In connection with the ascertainment of the source of supply of milk, the consumption of which is likely to cause tuberculosis, notification under Section 4 of this Act was sent in 69 cases to the Medical Officer of Health for the county or county borough in which the cows yielding the milk were kept.

Examination of Milk coming into the City from Outside Sources for the Presence of Tuberclle Bacilli

The system is to sample each source of supply and samples are obtained at depots from raw milk before heat treatment.

Milk supplies are handled mainly by large milk depots. The following gives the approximate number of City Milk depots and farmer producers supplying milk to the City from outside sources :—

<i>Depots</i>	<i>Farmer producers</i>
The three largest depots receive supplies from	approx. 1,980
Six City depots receive supplies from	approx. 900
The fourteen remaining depots receive supplies from	approx. 140
	3,020

The following return shows the number of samples of milk taken during 1948. Each sample represents the mixed milk of the cows of a single herd.

<i>Source</i>	<i>Samples taken at Depots, etc.</i>	<i>Samples infected</i>	<i>No. of T.B. Cows traced</i>
Derbyshire	24	1	1
Gloucestershire	16	—	—
Herefordshire	11	—	—
Leicestershire	82	—	—
Nottinghamshire	1	—	—
Shropshire	618	14	7
Staffordshire	385	29	19
Warwickshire	790	17	19
Worcestershire	379	8	10
	—	—	—
	2,306	69	56
City Dairies (Bulk)	83	6	7
City Dairies (Individual)	2	—	—
	—	—	—
	2,391	75	63
Pasteurised (To test plant)	9	—	—
	—	—	—
	2,400	75	63
	—	—	—

As a direct result of sampling milk for the presence of tubercle bacilli, 63 cows (56 outside dairies and 7 City dairies), giving tuberculous milk were removed during 1948 from dairy herds supplying milk to Birmingham.

At twelve farms the investigations had not been completed at the end of the year.

Comparative Return

The following table shows the number of samples of milk sent in from outside sources, taken during the past ten years, and the percentages infected :—

<i>Year</i>		<i>Samples Taken</i>	<i>Samples Infected</i>	<i>Percentage Infected</i>
1939	....	1,867	173	9.3
1940	....	2,237	244	10.9
1941	....	2,377	189	8.0
1942	....	2,408	182	7.5
1943	....	2,456	146	5.9
1944	....	2,434	138	5.7
1945	....	2,396	122	5.1
1946	....	2,232	128	5.7
1947	....	1,659	84	5.1
1948	....	2,306	69	3.0
	AVERAGE FOR PERIOD	....	....	6.6

It will be seen from these figures that since 1939 the position has substantially improved, the average percentage of infected milks for the past ten years being 6·6% and down to 3% for 1948. In a large measure this improvement can be attributed to dairy farmers, owing to food rationing difficulties, disposing of old and unprofitable cows for slaughter.

This is also revealed in the cattle slaughtered at the public abattoir. The percentage of the total number of cattle killed during 1948 found to be affected with tuberculosis was 29·4%, whereas the corresponding percentage for the year 1938 was 24·1%. This 5·3% increase is due to a greater percentage of low grade cattle received for slaughter than formerly.

Tuberculin Testing of Herds

The following return gives the number of animals tested during the year :—

	<i>Tested</i>	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>	<i>Commencement of Testing</i>
1	152	152	—
2	216	216	—
3	69	69	—

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

Under the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940, the slaughtering of cattle, sheep and a certain number of pigs, carried out in Birmingham is concentrated at the Public Abattoir. In addition to that centre there are twelve private slaughterhouses attached to bacon factories in the City for the slaughter of pigs. Prior to the Ministry of Food's control of slaughtering there were 83 private slaughterhouses in use.

For the purposes of the inspection of meat in the Public Abattoir and in the bacon factories, there are employed five Veterinary Meat Inspectors and three Food Inspectors. The food inspection in the shops and food stores in the City is carried out by eight District Inspectors. There is also one Inspector employed in the Wholesale Fruit, Vegetable and Fish Markets.

Under the present procedure, whereby the Ministry of Food take control of slaughtering, the local authority continue meat inspection and inspection of slaughtering, as carried out prior to the change.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	CITY MEAT MARKET			BACON FACTORIES
	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	43,733	54,964	108,282	7,310
Number inspected	43,733	54,964	108,282	7,310
All diseases except Tuberculosis :				60%
Whole carcasses condemned	65	561	105	25
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	789	722	9,215	245
Percentage of the number killed affected with disease other than tuberculosis	1.4%	1.3%	8.5%	3.3%
Tuberculosis only :				0.2%
Whole carcasses condemned	504	56	—	14
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	12,865	85	—	576
Percentage of number killed affected with tuberculosis	29.4%	0.15%	—	7.9%
Total DISEASED 1948	30.8%	1.4%	8.5%	11.2%
 TOTAL DISEASED 1947	34.6%	1.6%	9.8%	12.6%
 TOTAL DISEASED 1946	32.8%	1.4%	3.6%	12.2%

Inspection of Meat, Fish and Other Foods at Corporation Hospitals, Institutions, Birmingham Restaurants, etc.

The premises visited include :—

Institutions, etc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	38
School Meal Centres	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	111
Birmingham Restaurants	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40
							189

1,933 visits of inspection were made during the year to the above premises. In cases where food supplies and storage conditions were found to be unsatisfactory at school meal centres, reports were sent to the School Meals Section, Civic Centre, and reports relating to food inspected at Birmingham Restaurants were sent to the Administrative Officer, Birmingham Restaurants Department, Civic Centre. These referred to

School Meal Centres	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40 cases
Birmingham Restaurants	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 „
							44 „

Registered Premises used for the Manufacture of Cooked and Potted Meats

Registration of premises which complied with the requirements of the Veterinary and Public Health Departments was carried out in 17 cases during 1948.

At the end of the year there were 275 food preparation premises on the register as follows :—

Sausages, cooked meat and pork pie manufacturers	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	273
Jam manufacturers	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
							275

4,372 visits of inspection were made.

Food and Drugs Act, Section 13

Provisions as to rooms where food intended for sale is prepared or stored.

To enable occupiers of shops to obtain paint, timber and other necessary material, for repairs and alterations, certificates have been issued, stating the requirements in each case.

The following retail food shops, etc., were visited :

Beef and pork butchers	....	....	....	....	1,024
Grocers	....	....	....	....	1,540
Greengrocers	....	....	....	....	1,280
Hucksters	....	....	....	....	4,324
Fish friers	....	....	....	....	430
Fishmongers	....	....	....	....	640
Horseflesh	....	....	....	....	3
TOTAL					9,241

Visits of inspection were paid by inspectors as follows :—

Slaughterhouses (Bacon Factories)	....	....	....	....	....	1,110
Food preparation premises	....	....	....	....	....	4,372
Fish friers	....	....	....	....	....	1,465
Beef and pork butchers	....	....	....	....	....	15,311
Grocers	....	....	....	....	....	4,294
Greengrocers and fishmongers	....	....	....	....	....	10,763
Hucksters	....	....	....	....	....	420
Ham and bacon curers	....	....	....	....	....	1,092
Street hawkers	....	....	....	....	....	20,975
Horseflesh	....	....	....	....	....	24
Cold stores	....	....	....	....	....	14,247
Other requests	....	....	....	....	....	2,920
Institutions, schools, etc.	....	....	....	....	....	1,933
					78,926	

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

GENERAL

The mortality figures for 1948 are set out below and compared with the decennial (1938-1947) averages in the statement following :—

Disease	Number of deaths 1948	Yearly
		average No. of deaths 1938-1947
Enteric fever	—	2
Smallpox	—	—
Measles	6	18
Scarlet fever	2	2
Whooping cough	30	54
Diphtheria	5	40
Pulmonary tuberculosis	650	719
Other forms of tuberculosis	46	76
Influenza	33	149
Cerebro-spinal fever	3	29
Poliomyelitis	4*	3
Polio-encephalitis	2	1

*One of these deaths occurred in a case notified in 1947.

The prevalence of the notifiable diseases is shown in the next table :—

Disease	Corrected Number of Cases 1948	Yearly
		Average No. of corrected notifications 1938-1947
Enteric fever	6	29
Smallpox	—	—
Scarlet fever	1,982	1,749
Whooping cough	6,062	4,115
Measles	11,797	7,351
Diphtheria	165	810
Erysipelas	440	391
Puerperal pyrexia	208	335
Ophthalmia neonatorum	836	985
Pulmonary tuberculosis	1,132	1,061
Other forms of tuberculosis	162	168
Acute primary or influenzal pneumonia	1,193	1,720
Cerebro-spinal fever	45	135
Acute poliomyelitis	42	32
Polio-encephalitis	4	2
Malaria	10	8
Encephalitis lethargica	—	7
Dysentery	44	127

Diphtheria

The incidence of diphtheria again showed a decline, the number for 1948 being 165 as against 223 the previous year. There was a rise in case mortality from 1·3% to 3·0%.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The total number of children who received a full course of A.P.T. through the Public Health Department in 1948 was 23,025.

Children under 5 years of age immunised by the Public Health Department Staff.....	16,718	Total under 5 years— 20,301	Total 0-15 years of age 23,025
Children under 5 years of age immunised by general medical practitioners with material supplied by the Public Health Department	3,583		
Children from 5 to 15 years of age immunised by the Public Health Department Staff	2,552	Total 5-15 years : 2,724	
Children from 5 to 15 years of age immunised by general medical practitioners with material supplied by the Public Health Department	172		

In addition 55 adolescents and adults were inoculated with T.A.F. or A.P.T.

17,953 supplementary doses of A.P.T. including 741 by general medical practitioners were given to children previously inoculated. Again most of this work was carried out in the schools, the age grouping at December 31st according to the year of birth being :—

Under 5 years of age .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,367
5-10 years of age .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15,674
10-15 years of age .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	912
15 years of age and upwards (mainly nursery staff) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	97

These figures do not, however, give a sufficiently accurate picture of the part played by health visitors in encouraging supplementary inoculation by children under school age. It has to be noted therefore that, in addition to the 1,367 children recorded above as receiving supplementary doses under the age of 5, the health visitors were responsible for collecting a further 2,804 who were under five when inoculated but had to be included in the total of 15,674 aged 5-10 years at the date of compilation of the particulars.

While the supplementary dose is offered for children of all ages whose parents desire it, it is hoped steadily to raise the level of supplementary injections in the pre-school children as the parents become more familiar with the procedure, and so to reduce the school work.

Routine visits were made to child welfare centres, nurseries, nursery schools, primary schools, and institutions.

Before the National Health Service came into operation it was the practice for the department to supply A.P.T. to general medical practitioners, who made their own arrangements with parents for carrying out the treatment. Since July 5th, the number of children receiving primary inoculation from their own doctors has increased considerably, viz. :—

1,273 cases in the first half year of 1948, and
2,507 cases in the second half year of 1948

As regards supplementary doses, the general medical practitioners gave :—

272 first half-year
469 second half year

The annual census of the numbers of children immunised between the ages of 8 months and 5 years in each health visiting district and centre gave very creditable results. Seven centres gave 80% to 90% immunisation of all visited children, fourteen gave 70% to 80%, nine gave 60% to 70%, and the remaining one was only just below 60%. To obtain these proportions, particularly in the centres within the inner ring of the City, is a measure of the great keenness and persistence shown by health visitors. The data give a total immunisation figure of 73·3% of the children between 8 months and 5 years visited by health visitors, these figures being corrected for migrations and deaths, and largely for immigrants into the City ; they do not cover children not on the visiting lists, nor those in institutions.

It is estimated that 70·0% of the pre-school children and 95·9% of the children between 5 and 15 years of age have been inoculated, the estimated percentage of children 0-15 years of age being 85·2.

There were 54 cases of diphtheria among inoculated children (0-15 years)—the majority very mild infections.

There were five deaths from diphtheria. In two cases the children had been inoculated.

- (1) Girl, 9 years of age—3 doses of T.A.M. in 1942. She had been ill for four days when sent into hospital with a diagnosis of quinsy and died within 24 hours.
- (2) Girl, 6 years of age—3 doses of T.A.M. in 1944. She had been ill for four days when admitted to hospital, and died ten days later from cardiac failure.

In both cases the organisms were of " gravis " strain.

The three other fatal cases were children of 6 years, 7 years and 9 years of age.

For two years in succession there has been no death from diphtheria among the pre-school population.

Tuberculosis

The notification of pulmonary tuberculosis decreased from 1,223 to 1,132 and the non-pulmonary from 184 to 162.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

The apparent prevalence of ophthalmia neonatorum is illusory; only a trivial proportion are due to gonococcal infection. The great majority represent merely a precautionary notification of even the slightest condition capable of coming within the elastic definition of ophthalmia of the newly born.

Enteric Fever

There were 17 cases notified as enteric fever and 11 of these proved negative.

Undulant Fever

No case of this disease came to the notice of the Department during the year.

Glandular Fever

Only one case of glandular fever was recorded during 1948.

Smallpox

There were no cases of smallpox in the City during the year.

Vaccination

During the year the following numbers were vaccinated:—

The removal of the element of compulsion, effected under the National Health Service Act, 1946, is presumably reflected in the contrasted figures of infant vaccinations for the first half, before, and for the second half of the year, after the "appointed day":—

<i>Vaccinations</i>	<i>Jan. 1st to July 4th.</i>	<i>July 5th to Dec. 31st.</i>
Under 1 year	6,166	2,755
Over 1 year	103	137
Re-vaccinations	117	320

Measles

During the year there were 11,797 cases of measles with 6 deaths; the bulk of these cases occurred during the 2nd quarter of the year.

135 ampoules of measles immune serum were supplied during the year to general practitioners and hospitals in the City. Of these, 47 were supplied to general practitioners, of which 44 were used for attenuation and 3 for prevention ; 88 ampoules were supplied to institutions and of these 81 were for preventing an attack in children already in hospital suffering from some other condition, and 7 for attenuation.

Scarlet Fever

The number of cases of scarlet fever rose from 1,407 in 1947 to 1,982 in 1948, with 2 deaths.

Dysentery

82 cases were notified during the year, but on investigation 38 of these proved not to be dysentery, thus making a net total of 44 clinical cases.

Whooping Cough

During the year 6,062 cases were notified and 474 of these were admitted to the Infectious Disease Hospital. There were 30 deaths.

Malaria

9 cases of malaria were reported during the year and one revised diagnosis from cerebro-spinal fever to malaria, making a total of 10 cases. These were service or ex-service personnel showing relapse.

Food Poisoning

The following is a summary of the cases of food poisoning, set out in the form desired by the Ministry of Health :—

No. of out- breaks	No. of cases	No. of deaths	Organisms isolated*	Outbreaks of each	Foods involved***
12	333	1	Streptococcus viridans		
(Canteens	....	8	B.coli (other types)	1	Beef
School	....	1	B.subtilis		
Restaurants	....	2	B.coli Type I		
Private house	....	1)	Streptococcus viridans	1	Steak Pie
			B.proteus		
			B.subtilis		
			B.coli Type I		Chicken and stuffing
			Streptococcus viridans		Fried egg
			Staphylococcus	1	Dripping
			saprophyticus aureus		Pastry and roasting fat
			B.subtilis		Custard powder
			B.paracolon		
			Staphylococcus aureus	1	Beef
					Plum tart
			Streptococcus viridans		Faggot (gelatin)
			Staphylococcus pyogenes	1	Hamburger made from
			aureus		same mixture
			B.coli Type I		
			Streptococcus viridans		Potatoes and carrots
			B.proteus	1	Raw fish
			Staphylococcus		Dried milk
			saprophyticus		
			B.coli Type I	1	Stew
			Streptococcus viridans		
			S.bovis morbificans**	1	

* Handler contamination is considered to be the outstanding feature disclosed by bacteriological examination in these outbreaks.

** Isolated from patients, food handlers and rat droppings in one outbreak, where no food remained available for examination.

*** In five outbreaks (including the last item in the list above), no suspected food remained available for examination.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis

In 1948 there was a decrease in the number of cases over the previous year's figures, but the incidence was higher than that for the years preceding 1947.

In all 90 notifications were received and of these 48 were found not to be cases of poliomyelitis, while the remaining 42 cases were confirmed. There were 3 deaths giving a case mortality of 9.5%. In addition to these 3 deaths, there was a death occurring in a case which was notified in October, 1947.

Of the total number of cases 21 were mild with no paralysis, 5 with only one site of paralysis and 16 with multiple paralyses. One case was interesting in that it was a recurrence in a woman who had an attack regarded as non-paralytic poliomyelitis in 1947.

The distribution of the disease was general throughout the City and in only one instance was there 2 cases in one household, both of these being of the non-paralytic type.

The following is a summary of the age incidence :—

MALES

0-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-30	30-35	35-40
4	5	5	2	3	1	-	1
1 death			1 death	1 death			

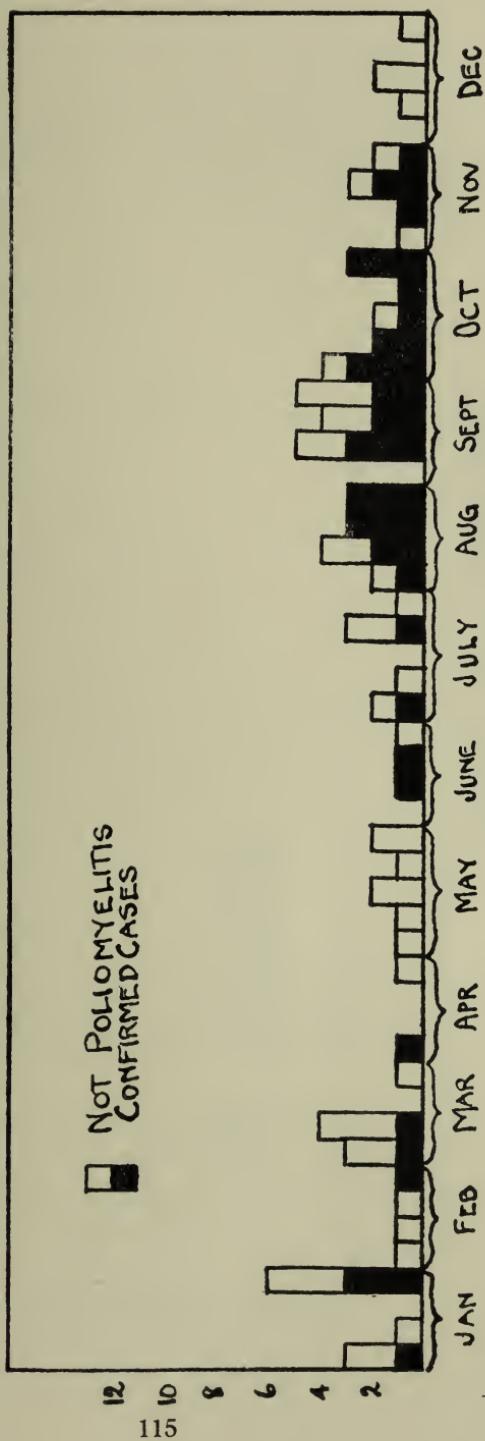
FEMALES

0-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-30	30-35	35-40
7	3	4	2	2	2 (1 death case notified in 1947)	-	1

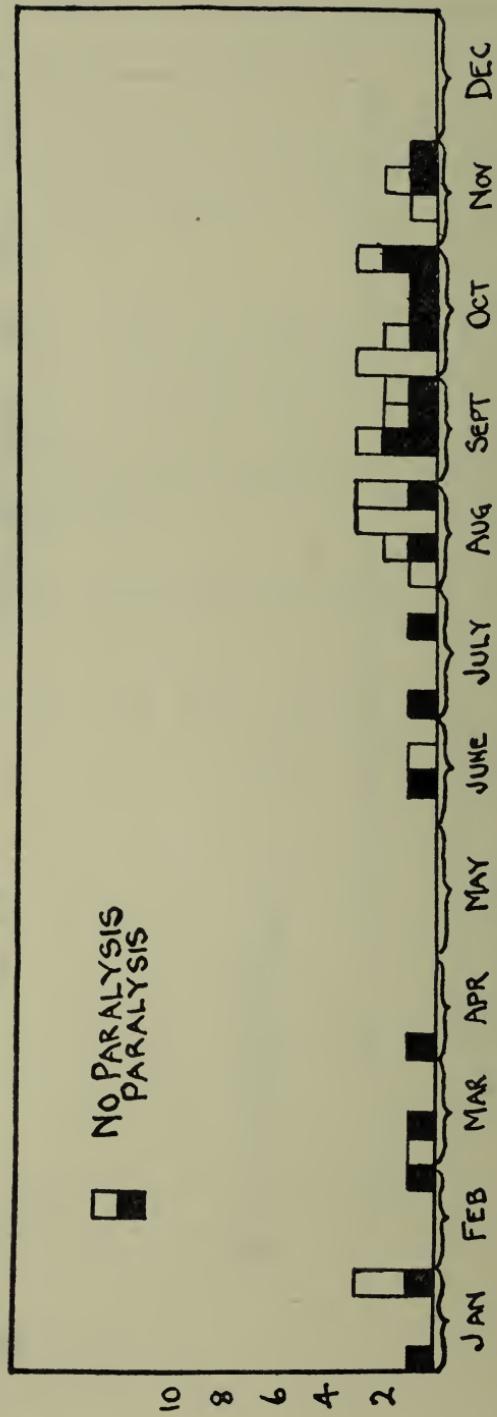
Polio-encephalitis

There were 4 cases of polio-encephalitis during the year, 2 of which died.

Poliomyleitis 1948



POLIOMYELITIS 1948



Encephalitis Lethargica

Only one case was notified and the diagnosis was revised to Polio-myelitis.

Cerebro-spinal Fever

There were 155 cases notified as cerebro-spinal fever during the year. In 110 cases the diagnosis was afterwards revised, leaving 45 clinical cases of this disease. There were 3 deaths, giving a case mortality of 6.7%. Amongst the revisions were 1 to malaria, 10 to poliomyelitis and 2 to polio-encephalitis.

Age Distribution							Cases
Under 1 year	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
1 and 2 years	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
3 .. 4 ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
5 and under 10 years	....	....	....	....	....	....	10
10 .. 15 ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
15 .. 20 ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
20 .. 25 ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
25 .. 35 ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
35 .. 45 ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
45 years upwards	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
							45

Convalescent Care

With the coming into force of the National Health Service Act it has become a function of the Health Committee to be responsible for the provision of recuperative, convalescent (as distinct from medical) care. During the period from the 5th July to the end of the year 1948, 80 such cases were dealt with. The total cost for the provision of this treatment was £391 10s. 6d. of which £270 2s. 6d. has been recovered, leaving a balance of £121 8s. 0d. to be met by this department.

The arrangements for convalescent care, developed towards the end of 1948 and in the early months of 1949, are effected, in collaboration with the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board, and the Governing Body of the Birmingham Teaching Hospitals, through the almoners of their respective hospitals :—

(a) for hospital patients, passing in the usual way through the almoner's hands for convalescent care. In so far as this is for recuperation as distinct from medical convalescence, the charges and the travelling expenses (where necessary), are met in the first instance by the Health Committee, subject to appropriate refund to the Committee by the patient, on a scale depending on his circumstances. This relates to patients not entitled to convalescent treatment as being contributors to the Birmingham Hospital Saturday Fund, which makes extensive provision of convalescent homes for its members.

(b) All patients under domiciliary medical care, where the practitioner recommends recuperative convalescence. In such cases the patient (where not a contributor to the Birmingham Hospital Saturday Fund) is referred by his practitioner to a convenient hospital with a request to the almoner to arrange recuperative convalescent care, as though he were a hospital patient. The charges, subject to appropriate refund, are met by the Health Committee, as in the case of the patient proceeding from hospital to a convalescent home.

MENTAL HEALTH

Duties in connection with the investigation and certification under the Lunacy Acts were transferred on 5th July, 1948, and the cases subsequently dealt with by the Duly Authorised Officers are classified as follows :

<i>Classification</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug.</i>	<i>Sept.</i>	<i>Oct.</i>	<i>Nov.</i>	<i>Dec.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Certified	57	46	56	51	51	95	356
Voluntary	57	70	153	119	395	225	1,019
Temporary	—	—	—	1	2	—	3
Sec. 20 Lunacy Act	11	9	14	9	15	10	68
Sec. 21 Lunacy Act	5	4	2	1	4	4	20
Urgency Orders	—	4	2	—	3	2	11
Not certified....	15	18	9	11	24	13	90
Other cases	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
 Total Cases dealt with July-Dec., 1948	 145	 151	 236	 192	 496	 349	 1,569

After-care of cases discharged from hospital and of selected cases found to be in need of pre-care—mainly ex-service cases—have been referred, as a temporary measure, to the Birmingham Branch of the National Association for Mental Health, in view of the shortage of trained psychiatric social workers.

The Association has undertaken the supervision of 136 cases on behalf of the local authority during the period, two having been referred by the Department and 129 from outside sources. Of these latter cases, 67 had been under the Association's supervision prior to 5th July, 1948.

At the 5th July, when the services maintained by the Mental Welfare Department under the Mental Deficiency Acts Committee were transferred, 135 cases were awaiting admission to institutions. 129 defectives have been reported since that date, and 50 have been admitted during the period. 138 were awaiting admission at the end of the year.

DOMICILIARY CARE OF TUBERCULOSIS

The number of patients on the Tuberculosis Register on the 31st December, 1948, was 7,112 ; those transferred to other areas during the year and untraced cases numbered 270 ; those transferred to Birmingham from other areas and untraced cases identified was 149.

During the year, 1,132 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified; and of that number, 1,039 or 91.8% were examined at the Anti-Tuberculosis Centre.

Notifications

The notification rate during 1948 for all forms of tuberculosis was 1.18 per 1,000 of the population, a decrease in comparison with the figures for 1947 of 113 or 0.10 per 1,000 of the population.

The pulmonary notification rate was 1.03 and the non-pulmonary rate 0.15 per 1,000 of the population. In comparison with 1947, the pulmonary rate has decreased by 91 cases or 0.08 per 1,000 of the population, and the non-pulmonary rate by 22 cases or 0.02 per 1,000 of the population.

Mortality

The mortality rate during 1948 from all forms of tuberculosis was 0.63 per 1,000 of the population which represents in comparison with 1947 a decrease of 52 deaths or 0.05 per 1,000 of the population.

The pulmonary mortality rate was 0.59 and the non-pulmonary rate 0.04 per 1,000 of the population.

In comparison with 1947, the pulmonary rate has decreased by 41 deaths or 0.05 per 1,000 of the population and the non-pulmonary rate has decreased by 11 deaths or 0.01 per 1,000 of the population.

Both the pulmonary and the non-pulmonary mortality rates for 1948 were the lowest so far recorded in the City.

The number of cases and deaths occurring during 1948 and in past years are shown in the following tables:—

TUBERCULOSIS (All forms)

	<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Population</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Death-rate per 1,000 Population</i>
1901—1910 (average)	—	1,309	1.65
1911—1920	..	—	1,284	1.46
1921—1930	..	1,824	1.91	1.08
1931—1935	..	1,459	1.43	0.91
1936	1,136	1.10	0.78
1937	1,119	1.07	0.80
1938	1,209	1.15	0.78
1939	1,036	0.98	0.84
1940	1,049	1.03	0.84
1941	1,073	1.13	0.90
1942	1,257	1.30	0.86
1943	1,239	1.28	0.78
1944	1,371	1.38	0.79
1945	1,348	1.36	0.76
1946	1,300	1.28	0.68
1947	1,407	1.31	0.70
1948	1,294	1.10	0.63

The relative prevalence and mortality from pulmonary and other forms of tuberculosis are shown in the two subsequent tables :—

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

		Rate per 1,000 Population	Deaths	Death-rate per 1,000 Population
	New Cases			
1901—1910 (average)	—	993	1·25
1911—1920	..	—	1,059	1·20
1921—1930	..	1,533	1·61	0·94
1931—1935	..	1,225	1·20	0·80
1936	962	0·93	0·71
1937	965	0·93	0·72
1938	1,011	0·96	0·70
1939	863	0·82	0·77
1940	899	0·88	0·77
1941	922	0·97	0·81
1942	1,069	1·11	0·77
1943	1,106	1·14	0·71
1944	1,190	1·20	0·70
1945	1,193	1·21	0·68
1946	1,135	1·12	0·61
1947	1,223	1·14	0·64
1948	1,132	1·03	0·59

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

		Rate per 1,000 Population	Deaths	Death-rate per 1,000 Population
	New Cases			
1901—1910 (average)	—	317	0·40
1911—1920	..	—	224	0·26
1921—1930	..	290	0·31	0·14
1931—1935	..	234	0·23	0·10
1936	174	0·17	0·07
1937	154	0·15	0·08
1938	198	0·19	0·08
1939	173	0·16	0·07
1940	150	0·15	0·07
1941	151	0·16	0·09
1942	188	0·19	0·09
1943	133	0·14	0·07
1944	181	0·18	0·09
1945	155	0·16	0·08
1946	165	0·16	0·07
1947	184	0·17	0·05
1948	162	0·15	0·04

The localisation of the disease in the case of the 46 deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis is shown in statement (a), and an analysis according to sex and age of all notifications and deaths is given in statement (b) :

(a)	Tuberculous meningitis	....	....	....	....	....	28
	Abdominal tuberculosis	....	....	....	....	....	4
	Bone and joint tuberculosis	....	....	....	....	....	3
	Disseminated tuberculosis	....	....	....	....	....	2
	Tuberculosis of other organs	....	....	....	....	....	9

(b)

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

Age	Male		Female	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
0—	6	3	8	9
1—2	21	6	10	1
3—4	10	1	9	2
5—14	41	3	40	7
15—24	91	26	162	60
25—44	232	117	193	110
45—64	201	216	53	38
65—74	37	36	8	6
75 and above	8	8	2	1
	647	416	485	234

Total Cases, 1,132; Total Deaths, 650

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

Age	Male		Female	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
0—	2	—	1	1
1—2	7	5	6	3
3—4	6	—	12	5
5—14	24	5	19	6
15—24	14	1	23	3
25—44	13	—	17	7
45—64	7	6	9	1
65—74	1	1	—	2
75 and above	1	—	—	—
	75	18	87	28

Total Cases 162 Total Deaths, 46

Grand Totals : Cases 1,294

Deaths 696

Non-Notification

The number of deaths from non-notified pulmonary tuberculosis was 52 or 8·0% of the total, and from non-notified non-pulmonary tuberculosis 16 or 34·8%.

The percentage of non-notified deaths from all forms of tuberculosis was thus 9·8%; but in 31 cases the diagnosis was established only on autopsy, so that notification could not arise; and the corrected figure of non-notified cases before death was 5·3% of the total deaths from all forms of tuberculosis. The figure for 1947 was 5·5%.

Contacts

The number of contacts examined in relation to the total notifications for 1948 and to the number of patients on the Tuberculosis Register, remains inadequate. An extension of this work, essential though it be, is at present unfortunately impracticable, in view of the limitations of consulting room accommodation. It is to be hoped that before long an

extension of such accommodation can be arranged, with a parallel extension of staff to meet the circumstances.

CONTACTS EXAMINED DURING 1948

	Total Number of Cases	Contacts to patients with sputum containing tubercle bacilli	Contacts to patients with negative sputum
0 to 5 years			
Tuberculous	12 (1·6%)	7 (58·3%)	5 (41·7%)
Non-tuberculous	717 (98·4%)	325 (45·3%)	392 (54·7%)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	729	332	397
6 to 15 years			
Tuberculous	14 (1·7%)	5 (35·7%)	9 (64·3%)
Non-tuberculous	801 (98·3%)	390 (48·7%)	411 (51·3%)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	815	395	420
16 years and over :			
Tuberculous	50 (2·8%)	31 (62·0%)	19 (38·0%)
Non-tuberculous	1,713 (97·2%)	841 (49·1%)	872 (50·9%)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,763	872	891
Grand Totals :			
Tuberculous	76 (2·3%)	43 (56·6%)	33 (43·4%)
Non-tuberculous	3,231 (97·7%)	1,556 (48·2%)	1,675 (51·8%)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,307	1,599	1,708
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Domiciliary Care and the National Health Service Act

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the medical treatment of the tuberculous became a function of the Regional Hospital Board, while the after-care and social welfare of the tuberculous continue to be administered by the local Health Authority.

This divorce of the clinical from the social aspect of the former tuberculosis service could well be disastrous in its effect, unless experience shows that the tuberculosis medical officers, now brought into the hospital system as chest physicians, can permanently impress the spirit of prevention on the clinical attitude towards tuberculosis in the hospital ward.

The domiciliary welfare of tuberculous patients and of their families is the concern of the tuberculosis health visitor, and of the clerical and general staff who work in this section of the department. These deal with such matters as housing and disinfection, in close collaboration with the City Estates Department, National Assistance Board, British Red Cross Society, and welfare organisations.

As fortunately this section of the Public Health Department is still housed in the same building as the Anti-Tuberculosis Clinic, at 151, Gt. Charles Street, there has been no severance of the previous close co-operation with the Tuberculosis Physicians ; and personal contact of health visitors and clerks with the medical officers in dealing with cases and their after-care has been maintained.

Work of the Tuberculosis Visitors

There are ten nurses engaged as Tuberculosis Visitors in the department. The visitors are concerned with the domiciliary welfare of the patient ; the range of their duties is wide, and the character of the work varied. It is their primary duty to make enquiry into every case of tuberculosis, and maintain by regular visits close contact with the patient in his home.

After-care in all its aspects is the concern of the visitor, and an indication of the scope of the work is shown in the following statement :—

VISITS PAID BY THE TUBERCULOSIS VISITORS DURING 1947 AND 1948

		1947	1948
Primary visits (to new cases) ....	....	1,697	1,542
Routine re-visits ....	....	18,923	20,162
Special visits and re-visits ....	....	6,977	8,188

The following statement gives an indication of certain of the after-care activities of the department :—

		1947	1948
Beds issued ....	....	377	288
Chalets provided ....	....	12	12
Grants of clothing and nursing appliances ....	....	487	548
Number of fares paid for patients ....	....	124	318
Grants of food made ....	....	192	239
Red Cross Society parcels recommended ....	....	190	355

(The provision of chalets is governed by the fitness of the patients to sleep or rest unattended for prolonged periods out of doors, under conditions of reasonable privacy).

The close co-operation existing between the Anti-Tuberculosis service, the School Medical Department, and the Maternity and Child Welfare Department provides valuable opportunities for the after-care service to be widely applied.

Disinfection

The disinfection of 1,515 houses, where a member of the family had suffered or died from tuberculosis or changed his or her address, was carried out during the year.

Housing

The housing problem during the year has continued to be a difficult one, but despite the present difficulties the Estates Department has been able to offer suitable accommodation to 234 families ; a high degree of co-operation for which the Health Committee have expressed their warm appreciation.

Action under Legal Enactment

It was unnecessary during the year to take action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade ; nor was Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, employed to remove any patient compulsorily to a sanatorium.

B.C.G. Vaccination

This method of conferring artificial immunity against tuberculosis, by vaccination with an attenuated strain of live tubercle bacilli, has been in use in many other countries, notably in Scandinavia, for a number of years past. The results obtained leave little doubt of the efficacy of this method in reducing morbidity and mortality in groups of persons especially exposed to risk of tuberculous infection, such as hospital nurses, and young children in tuberculous households. It is expected that the Ministry of Health will in the near future make B.C.G. available in this country, and we may look forward with hope to this additional weapon in the anti-tuberculosis campaign.

It is anticipated that during the course of 1949, or early in 1950, the Skilts Home for children from households containing infectious cases of tuberculosis will be opened, and suitable children received there will undergo immunisation against the disease by means of B.C.G. vaccine.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Happily the records for 1948 show a further slight decline in new cases of syphilis, and a marked decline in those of gonorrhoea, as compared with 1947.

The precise figures are included in the two tables which follow :—

	Syphilis	New Cases			Other Conditions
		Soft Chancre	Gonorrhœa		
General Hospital	523	—	768		2,901
Children's Hospital	12	—	—		23
Lancaster Street	51	—	7		1,146
Birmingham Infirmary	16	—	7		16
TOTAL	602	—	782		4,086

The following table gives the data over a period of ten years :—

		Syphilis	Soft Chancre	Gonorrhoea	Other Conditions
1939	....	330	1	948	2,282
1940	....	318	1	835	1,957
1941	....	343	4	940	2,261
1942	....	515	2	1,030	2,906
1943	....	685	—	878	4,818
1944	....	604	—	765	4,583
1945	....	567	—	1,061	4,695
1946	....	835	—	1,510	5,437
1947	....	608	—	1,052	4,003
1948	....	602	—	782	4,086

The total attendances for treatment are indicated below :—

1939	....	88,083	1944	....	92,915
1940	....	75,936	1945	....	84,539
1941	....	73,175	1946	....	96,515
1942	....	83,776	1947	....	71,482
1943	....	97,973	1948	....	65,546

Further particulars of the work done at the Centres in 1948 are as follows :—

	Syphilis	Soft Chancre	Gonorrhoea	Other Conditions
No. of cases under treatment, Jan. 1st, 1948....	1,738	—	491	515
New cases under treatment during year	602	—	782	4,086
Total attendances	40,795	2	7,144	17,605
No. discharged after completion of treatment and observation	454	1	564	3,857
No. transferred to other centres	191	—	100	39
No. who ceased to attend:				
Before completion of treatment	185	—	15	—
After completion of treatment but before final tests as to cure	120	—	249	—
No. of cases of congenital syphilis treated :				
Under 1 year of age	5	Aged 5-15 years	14	
Aged 1-5 years	5	Aged 15 years and over	21	
	TOTAL	....	45	

The corresponding number of cases of congenital syphilis under treatment in 1947 was 41, so that the figure appeared now to have reached a relatively steady level.

While under the National Health Service Act the venereal disease clinics have been transferred to the authority of the Regional Hospital Board, I am indebted to Dr. Assinder, the Director of the Clinic, for the particulars here summarised.

TABLE I

VITAL STATISTICS DURING 1948 AND PREVIOUS YEARS

YEAR	DEATH-RATES PER 1,000 OF POPULATION FROM										DEATH-RATES PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS					
	Diseases of each year Estimated to middle					Diseases of each year Estimated to middle					Other Accidents of Childbirth					
	Birth-rate	Death-rate	Influenza	Tuberculosis	Cancer	Smallpox	Malaria	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Respiratory	Diseases of Nervous	Diarrhoeal System	Respiratory System	Diarrhoeal System of Digestive	Diarrhoeal System of Genito-Urinary
1911	842,337	26.1	15.0	.04	.47	.10	.17	.13	.12	.20	.22	.32	.89	?.	?.	?.
1912	850,947	26.1	14.1	.04	.67	.18	.19	.12	.12	.28	.24	.93	.14	.45	.48,4	10.8
1913	859,644	27.3	14.9	.02	.29	.19	.19	.12	.12	.20	.27	.95	.50	.56	.48,2	1.22
1914	882,552	26.4	14.8	.02	.35	.17	.14	.15	.16	.28	.24	.95	.51	.56	.48,2	1.85
1915	891,234	23.8	14.4	.18	.47	.14	.14	.13	.13	.27	.22	.92	.48	.45	.42,8	1.65
1916	895,678	25.9	14.6	.03	.48	.25	.11	.11	.12	.29	.29	.94	.51	.49	.46,5	1.56
1917	900,000	19.7	12.6	.04	.42	.13	.16	.12	.12	.24	.24	.94	.46	.45	.40	.39,5
1918	870,000	19.4	15.2	.01	.37	.07	.14	.13	.13	.30	.25	.95	.40	.44	.38	.38,7
1919	910,000	20.9	13.0	.01	.32	.06	.14	.15	.15	.30	.25	.95	.35	.35	.35	.38,7
1920	910,000	27.6	12.6	.83	-	.16	.16	.16	.16	.27	.27	.95	.35	.35	.35	.38,7
1921	Average	22.1	13.4	.94	.01	.18	.23	.16	.18	.22	.17	.94	.17	.17	.18	.14,3
1922	919,683	24.1	11.3	.83	.01	.17	.04	.13	.10	.48	.48	.94	.16	.16	.16	.16,6
1923	927,844	21.5	12.1	.86	.00	.09	.04	.08	.10	.38	.38	.94	.20	.20	.20	.17,7
1924	936,079	20.4	11.0	.72	.00	.20	.04	.05	.15	.28	.28	.94	.16	.16	.16	.16,7
1925	944,386	19.2	11.6	.83	.01	.08	.02	.19	.10	.39	.39	.94	.16	.16	.16	.16,7
1926	952,766	18.8	11.7	.78	.00	.11	.02	.23	.10	.39	.39	.94	.16	.16	.16	.16,7
1927	Average	20.8	11.5	.80	.00	-	.13	.12	.12	.34	.34	.95	.16	.16	.16	.16,7
1928	961,222	18.7	11.3	.73	.00	.08	.01	.13	.12	.27	.27	.94	.12	.12	.12	.12,9
1929	969,752	17.8	11.8	.75	.00	.13	.01	.07	.08	.41	.41	.94	.17	.17	.17	.17,6
1930	976,500	17.6	10.9	.76	.00	.04	.01	.13	.13	.38	.38	.94	.16	.16	.16	.16,7
1931	981,000	17.1	13.5	.79	.00	.20	.01	.13	.09	.09	.09	.94	.16	.16	.16	.16,7
1932	982,000	17.7	10.8	.70	.00	.06	.02	.11	.09	.41	.41	.94	.16	.16	.16	.16,7
1933	Average	17.8	11.6	.70	.00	.10	.01	.12	.09	.34	.34	.95	.16	.16	.16	.16,7
1934	991,300	16.9	11.7	.71	.00	.07	.01	.13	.12	.36	.36	.95	.16	.16	.16	.16,7
1935	1,003,000	15.4	10.9	.64	.00	.06	.01	.07	.06	.36	.36	.95	.16	.16	.16	.16,7
1936	1,038,000	15.8	11.3	.62	.00	.04	.01	.10	.06	.13	.04	.95	.16	.16	.16	.16,7
1937	1,042,000	16.3	11.7	.60	.00	.05	.01	.07	.03	.08	.07	.95	.16	.16	.16	.16,7
1938	1,017,500	16.3	11.3	.66	.00	.08	.02	.02	.03	.44	.44	.95	.16	.16	.16	.16,7
1939	1,023,500	14.7	11.0	.66	.00	.02	.01	.05	.05	.22	.22	.95	.16	.16	.16	.16,7
1940	1,028,000	15.3	11.0	.68	.01	.01	.01	.05	.05	.22	.22	.95	.16	.16	.16	.16,7
1941	1,033,000	15.4	10.9	.64	.00	.06	.01	.06	.06	.15	.15	.95	.16	.16	.16	.16,7
1942	1,047,000	16.0	11.2	.67	.00	.04	.01	.10	.06	.13	.03	.95	.16	.16	.16	.16,7
1943	1,048,000	16.6	10.9	.60	.00	.05	.01	.07	.05	.15	.15	.95	.16	.16	.16	.16,7
1944	990,000	22.8	11.3	.42	-	.00	.03	.02	.11	.70	.68	.95	.16	.16	.16	.16,7
1945	990,000	19.9	11.2	.50	-	.00	.03	.02	.06	.68	.68	.95	.16	.16	.16	.16,7
1946	1,017,100	18.9	11.9	.54	-	.00	.03	.01	.11	.61	.61	.95	.16	.16	.16	.16,7
1947	1,076,230	22.2	11.1	.41	-	.00	.03	.00	.08	.64	.64	.95	.16	.16	.16	.16,7
1948	1,096,100	19.5	11.8	.32	-	.00	.03	.00	.08	.64	.64	.95	.16	.16	.16	.16,7

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT AGE PERIODS DURING 1948

TABLE II.

No.	Causes of Death	AGES AT DEATH										AGES AT DEATH									
		0-	1-	2-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-	75-	All Ages	0-	1-	2-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-	75-	All Ages
1	Typhoid & Paratyphoid	M.	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1A	Fever...	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1A	Small Pox	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	Measles	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	Diphtheria	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6	Influenza	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6A	Poliomyelitis	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6B	Polio Encephalitis	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10A	Tubercular Meningitis	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10B	Tuberculosis of the Abdomen	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10C	Tuberculosis of Spinal Column	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10D	Tuberculosis of Joints	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10E	Disseminated Tuberculosis	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10F	Tuberculosis of Glands	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11	Syphilis	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12	General Paralysis of Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13A	Cancer of Buccal Cavity & Pharynx	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13B	Digestive Organs	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13C	Peritoneum	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13D	Respiratory Organs	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13E	Genital Organs	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13F	Breast	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13G	Urinary Organs	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13H	Skin	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Other Organs	... M.	... F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE III

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED AND VERIFIED DURING 1948
CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO SEX AND AGE

Disease	Sex	AGE GROUPS														Total
		0-1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 up		
Enteric Fever	M.	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	5
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	3
Scarlet Fever	M.	4	85	218	449	122	22	15	13	10	1	1	—	—	—	940
	F.	3	69	229	516	134	36	17	23	12	3	—	—	—	—	1042
Diphtheria	M.	—	6	18	35	7	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	71
	F.	—	6	15	19	10	12	15	12	3	2	—	—	—	—	94
Erysipelas	M.	2	5	2	1	1	2	4	31	47	39	37	20	7	198	
	F.	1	2	2	6	2	5	6	36	45	59	50	18	10	242	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis....	M.	6	21	10	23	18	37	54	136	96	118	83	37	8	647	
	F.	8	10	9	20	20	71	91	135	58	31	22	8	2	485	
Tubercular Meningitis	M.	—	2	1	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
	F.	—	4	5	3	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
Tuberculosis of Peritoneum & Intestines	M.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	3
	F.	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Other forms of Tuberculosis	M.	1	5	5	13	7	6	6	10	10	3	1	4	1	1	63
	F.	1	2	7	11	4	10	9	11	4	5	4	—	—	—	68
Cerebro-spinal Fever	M.	3	4	1	6	3	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	22
	F.	3	4	4	4	2	1	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	22
Anterior Poliomyelitis	M.	—	1	2	3	4	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
	F.	—	3	4	3	2	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	18
Polio-encephalitis	M.	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malaria	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	9
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	M.	1	4	5	1	1	1	1	6	2	2	2	1	1	—	27
	F.	2	4	3	1	—	1	—	3	1	2	2	1	1	—	19
Smallpox	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	M.	55	62	43	76	19	24	21	67	81	86	71	62	30	697	
	F.	41	71	44	62	18	11	13	38	42	44	35	42	35	496	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	M.	454	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	454
	F.	382	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	382
Puerperal Pyrexia	M.	—	—	—	—	—	15	64	103	26	—	—	—	—	—	208
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	M.	297	1661	1807	1990	48	7	12	8	9	1	1	—	—	—	5841
	F.	290	1600	1818	2106	65	26	22	22	5	1	—	1	—	—	5956
Whooping Cough	M.	370	943	834	662	13	2	1	2	—	—	2	1	—	—	2830
	F.	386	1046	980	778	16	3	4	10	4	2	3	—	—	—	3232

TABLE IV

BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES IN WARDS, 1948

WARDS	Estimated Population	BIRTHS		DEATHS		INFANT DEATHS	
		Number	Rate per 1,000 population	Number	Rate per 1,000 population	Number	Rate per 1,000 live births
t. Paul's	19,700	490	24.9	250	12.7	20	41
t. Mary's	15,800	424	26.8	195	12.3	17	40
uddeson and Nechells	24,600	668	27.2	308	12.5	28	42
t. Bartholomew's	17,200	458	26.6	225	13.1	20	44
t. Martin's and Deritend	19,100	523	27.4	269	14.1	20	38
arket Hall	12,800	313	24.5	151	11.8	14	45
adywood	22,500	611	27.2	258	11.5	25	41
Average Rate of Central Wards	131,700	3,487	26.5	1,656	12.6	144	41
ozells	26,200	537	20.5	308	11.8	11	20
ston	27,900	622	22.3	335	12.0	24	39
Vashwood Heath	32,900	552	16.8	314	9.5	22	40
altley	24,700	531	21.5	252	10.2	26	49
mall Heath	27,800	541	19.5	295	10.6	20	37
parkbrook	28,700	669	23.3	263	9.2	19	28
Balsall Heath	29,300	603	20.6	334	11.4	17	28
Edgbaston	30,400	497	16.3	328	10.8	11	22
Rotton Park	27,400	524	19.1	297	10.8	13	25
All Saints'	24,600	518	21.1	285	11.6	19	37
Average Rate of Inner Ring Wards	279,900	5,594	20.0	3,011	10.8	182	33
oho	24,500	418	17.1	289	11.8	18	43
andwell	22,100	347	15.7	224	10.1	12	35
andsworth	30,100	530	17.6	342	11.4	26	49
Perry Barr	79,100	1,443	18.2	465	5.9	35	24
Erdington	35,600	555	15.6	299	8.4	16	29
Gravelly Hill	32,300	620	19.2	301	9.3	19	31
Bromford	29,600	581	19.6	266	9.0	21	36
Stechford	68,000	1,443	21.2	444	6.5	39	27
Yardley	37,600	693	18.4	303	8.1	22	32
Acocks Green	38,000	641	16.9	326	8.6	21	33
Hall Green	48,400	736	15.2	355	7.3	11	15
Sparkhill	33,800	590	17.5	365	10.8	12	20
Moseley and King's Heath	48,400	848	17.5	476	9.8	21	25
Selly Oak	31,800	551	17.3	380	11.9	15	27
King's Norton	39,200	748	19.1	382	9.7	23	31
Northfield	49,300	972	19.7	379	7.1	24	25
Harborne	36,700	542	14.8	332	9.0	12	22
Average Rate of Outer Ring Wards	684,500	12,258	17.9	5,928	8.7	347	28
Ward of domicile not known		7	—	115	—	1	—
City	1,096,100	21,346	19.5	10,710	9.8	674	32

INDEX

A

- Adoption of children, 72
- Aged and infirm persons, 14
- Ambulance services, 8
- Analytical laboratory, 8
- Anterior poliomyelitis, 114
- Antenatal clinics, 44
- Anti-tuberculosis centre, 121
- Area of City, 5

B

- B.C.G. vaccination 124
- Bacteriological laboratory, 7
- Baths, etc., 88
- Birmingham Corporation Act, 1946, (Section 59), 77
- Births, 16, 129
- Birth rates, 5, 17, 126, 129
- Bronchitis, 6

C

- Canal boats, 80
- Cancer, 6
- Central kitchens, 61
- Cerebro-spinal meningitis, 117
- Child life protection, 73
- Child welfare centres, 44
- Children placed in homes, 72
- Children's clinics, 49
- Chiropody clinic, 55
- Circulatory diseases, 6, 126
- City laboratories, 7
- City midwifery service, 36
- City nurseries, 60
- Common lodging houses, 80
- Convalescent care, 117
- Cows and cowsheds, 102
- Cream, synthetic, 101

D

- Dairies administration, 100
- Day nurseries, 60
- Deaths, 6, 127, 129
- Death rates, 6, 126, 129
- Death rate 4 weeks to 1 year, 21
- Dental clinics, 50
- Diphtheria, 110
- Diphtheria immunisation, 110
- Disinfection, 90, 123
- District midwifery, 36
- Domestic help service, 56
- Domiciliary midwifery, 36
- Domiciliary care of tuberculosis, 118
- Dysentery, 113

E

- Ear, nose, and throat conditions, 52
- Eating houses, 98
- Emergency maternity service, 37
- Encephalitis lethargica, 117
- Enforcement section, 78
- Enteric fever, 112

F

- Factories Act, 81
- Food and Drugs Act, 108
- Food, inspection of, 98
- Food poisoning, 113
- Foster mother service, 73
- Fumes, 87

G

- Glandular fever, 112
- Gonorrhoea, 124
- Guidance clinic for parents, 52

H

- Health centres, 15
- Health education, 58
- Health visiting in the home, 41
- Health visiting Service, 41
- Health visitors' training course, 40
- Heart diseases, 6, 126
- Home helps, 56
- Home nursing service, 57
- Homes, voluntary, 68
- House inspection, 76
- Houses-let-in-lodgings, 80
- Houses, new, 92
- Housing, 91
- Housing survey, 96
- Housing and tuberculosis, 124
- Housing Act, 1936, 93

I

- Ice cream, 99
- Illegitimacy, 21
- Immunisation against diphtheria, 110
- Immunisation against measles, 112
- Infant life protection, 73
- Infant mortality, 5, 16, 18
- Infant mortality—Cause of death, 18
- Infant mortality in Wards, 22, 129
- Infant mortality rates, 23, 126
- Infectious diseases, 109, 128
- Infirm and aged persons, 14
- Institutional midwifery, 39

92

INDEX—*continued*

K

Kitchens, Central, 61

L

Laboratory facilities, 7

Legitimacy, 21

Lice, 89

Licences and priority certificates, 77

Lodging houses, 80

M

Malaria, 113

Mass radiography, 46, 64

Maternal mortality, 5, 16, 25

Maternity and child welfare, 16

Maternity and child welfare centres, 44

Maternity services, 35

Maternity service—emergency, 37

Measles, 112

Meat, 105

Medical inspection of pre-school children, 49

Mental health, 118

Midwives, 36

Midwives, training of, 38

Milk and dairies, administration, 100

Milk examination, 103

Milk supply, 102

N

Neonatal mortality, 16, 20

New houses, 92

Noise, 88

Nuisances, 76

Nurses' hostel, 65

Nurseries, 60

Nursing in the home, 57

Nursing homes, 40

O

Offensive trades, 79

Ophthalmia neonatorum, 29, 112

Outwork, 84

Overcrowding, 96

P

Parents' guidance clinic, 52

Pemphigus neonatorum, 30

Pneumonia, 6, 127, 128

Polioencephalitis, 115

Poliomyelitis, 114

Population, 5, 126

Postnatal clinics, 47

Prematurity, 30

Public baths, 88

Puerperal pyrexia and sepsis, 27

R

Radiography, Mass, 46, 64

Rats, 84

Redevelopment, 95

Refresher courses, surveys, visits, 54

Remedial exercise clinics, 53

Removal of aged and infirm, 14

Residential nurseries, 60

Residential schools, 68

Respiratory diseases, 6, 126

Routine sampling of Corporation water supply, 75

Rodent control, 84

S

Sanitary inspection, 76

Sanitary inspection staff, 79

Scabies and verminous conditions, 89

Scarlet fever, 113

Schools, residential, 68

Shell fish, 101

Shops, supervision of, 86

Smallpox, 112

Smoke, 87

Squatters camps, 77

Statistics, vital, during 1948 and previous years, 126

Statistics, summary, 1948, 5, 126

Stillbirths, 16, 17, 31

Surveys, visits and refresher courses, 54

Swimming baths and pools, 88

Synthetic cream, 101

Syphilis, 124

INDEX—*continued*

T

- Tents, vans and sheds, 80
Tonsils and adenoids, 52
Town and country planning act, 95
Training course for health visitors, 40
Training of midwives, 38
Training of nursery students, 62, 65
Treatment of ear, nose, and throat conditions, 52
Tuberculosis, 112, 118
Tuberculosis and milk supply, 103
Tuberculosis dispensary, 121
Tuberculosis visitors, 123
Tuberculosis care work, 122
Tuberculosis, domiciliary care of, 118

U

- Undulant fever, 112
Unmarried mothers, 69

V

- Vaccination, 112
Vaccination B.C.G., 124
Venereal diseases, 7, 124
Verminous conditions and scabies, 89
Visitors, health, 41
Visitors, tuberculosis, 123
Vital statistics, 5, 126
Voluntary homes, 68

W

- Water supply, 75
Wells, 76
Whooping cough, 113

